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President's Message

I remember Mr. Cantor. He was my older brother's high school biology teacher, and he led bird walks at the school every Wednesday morning during spring and fall. My brother knew I was interested in birds so he arranged for me to go on one of the walks. It was with suspense and uncertainty that I arrived that morning, and when Mr. Cantor asked me if I had binoculars, I had to sheepishly say, "No." But that was no problem: the trunk of his car was filled with spare pairs and I could borrow one. Wow!

Then the fun started. I was introduced to Barn Swallows, whipping across the ball fields as we approached the adjacent woods. It didn't matter that I couldn't quite get the binoculars on the swallow, because soon we were looking at the meadowlark perched on a post. After entering the woods, Mr. Cantor was telling our group that the bird saying "teacher Teacher TEACHER" was an Ovenbird. A what? I had no clue what an oven bird was, nor did I have a clue as to how he found this little thing, motionless, but singing, in the middle of the woods. With great patience, he got me on my lifer Ovenbird. I also remember Dick Evans. I met Dick through the Cayuga Bird Club in Ithaca, New York, the first bird club I ever joined. Dick took me on my first Christmas Bird Count. He let me look through his telescope at my first Common Loon. He passed to me countless tidbits of bird lore, explained to me why this bird was this and that bird was that. When I was getting ready to move to Chicago he told me, "I'll bet you'll see a lot of Dickcissels out there." He was right. I think of Dick every time I see one.

Here in Chicago and in Illinois I've met many others who have generously shared their passion for birds with me. My life is very much the richer for it. I'm still learning, and through IOS I continue to meet people like Mr. Cantor and Dick Evans who open windows big and small to help me better experience the birds around me. I am deeply in debt to all the people who have given so much to me through birds and birding.

One of IOS's objectives is "To encourage others to become interested in birds and birding in Illinois." I hope we all make this one of our own, personal objectives, and take advantage of every opportunity to give back to the birding community and to the public at large what we've been so lucky to receive. I know I feel privileged to do so. Take a first-time Christmas Counter out. Speak to community groups, and introduce them to birds. Spread the word about our birds. Not only does it make a difference, but you'll also enjoy sharing what you have to offer other folks.

Through IOS you'll have many opportunities to learn from your fellow members. Take advantage of these. Also take advantage of your opportunities to share what you have to offer. Together we can bring the wonder the birds to everyone around us.

Geoffrey A. Williamson

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Letter from the editor

Many of you probably don't know that Coral Ackerman introduced me to birding. I was a young reporter at the time (15 or 16 years ago) and saw a press release about a College of Lake County birding class. I decided to write a story about it. The first class, I saw a duck. Not just any duck. A blue-winged teal. A duck with soft-blue patches on its wings when in flight.

Do you remember the excitement of finding your first Hooded Warbler? Black-throated Blue Warbler? Connecticut Warbler? I do. I found them all at Ryerson Woods. I can tell you exactly where I saw them, and I have Coral Ackerman to thank for introducing me to the Lake County Forest Preserves.

Dave Johnson instilled in me a passion for breeding birds. One day 10 or more years ago, I ran into him at the post office and he said, "Hey, want to do some breeding bird atlases?" He gave me a block in Grayslake, Illinois, and I spent one of the happiest summers of my life finding birds and nests and adults feeding young, and learning about bird behavior. Seeing young Spotted Sandpipers trying to pump their not-yet-developed tails, or hearing the distinctive call of Yellow-headed Blackbird young begging for food in a marsh – that was heaven on earth.

Many IOS members have helped me understand the finer points of bird identification and bird distribution – people like Steve Bailey, Eric Walters, my friends from the Palos region, and my friends from southern Illinois. The people who willingly share their knowledge and expertise with others are those who make a difference that will reverberate long after they are gone.

I'll let you in on a secret. When you teach, you learn. You also experience an indescribable joy. What strikes me most about teaching birding classes is that I get to experience vicariously through them, what it's like to see or hear your first Sedge Wren, Dickcissel, Kentucky Wabler, White-eyed Vireo...

Please share your knowledge. Teach others. Not only for them. But also for you.

Sheryl De Vore

Sheryl De Vore
Natural Editions
sdevore@voyager.net

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About Our Cover:

Peter Olson drew the cover art of a Scott's Oriole. See page 91 for an account of a first Illinois record of this species. Peter is a professional artist working at the Northern Illinois University Art Museum. You can view his work on line at www.nature-as-metaphor.com

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The Widespread Invasion of Northern Shrikes (*Lanius excubitor*)

in Illinois in winter 1999/2000 with comments on the species' non-breeding season demographics

by Steven D. Bailey

Northern Shrikes (*Lanius excubitor*) have been little studied over much of their circumboreal range, especially for the North American population (Davis 1937, Davis & Morrison 1988, Atkinson & Cade 1993). This fact is especially true of wintering birds in North America. Therefore, any findings on this species, even if anecdotal, are valuable additions to the natural history of Illinois' avifauna.

The incursion of Northern Shrikes in Illinois the winter 1999/2000 season may well have been one of the largest, if not the largest, in the state's history. Bohlen (1989) mentions no particularly large irruptions, but see Chapel (1999) and Graber et al. (1973). Based on the number of birds reported, the incursion is larger than any previous ones, including what was the largest documented invasion before this writing, in the winter of 1995/1996 (Danley 1996).

Even more noteworthy, however, is the extent to which the species penetrated the state. Observers reported at least 24 separate central Illinois records, and even one for southern Illinois in Madison County. If accepted by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, the Madison County record will be the southernmost documented Northern Shrike for the state. Interestingly, an observer also reported a Northern Shrike for nearby St. Charles County, Missouri, (approximately 20 miles from the Madison County bird) from at least 12 December 1999 through 3 January 2000, an exceptional record (see Robbins and Easterla 1992). The Northern Shrike is considered hypothetical in the St. Louis, Missouri region. It is seldom observed as far south as St. Louis, and the last report of the species for this region was on 19 February 1950 in St. Charles County (Webster Groves Nature Study Society 1998). However Mengel's (1965) reference to this species as "casual" for Kentucky, and specimen evidence for Tennessee (see Robinson 1990) suggest that birders in southern Illinois should not assume that every shrike is a Loggerhead.

Immature Northern Shrike in a Downers Grove (DuPage County) backyard. 31 January 2000. Photo by Karen Fisher.

The widespread nature of the 1999/2000 Northern Shrike invasion was also evident in other parts of the country. "The winter of 1999/2000 was one of the largest and most wide spread (invasions of Northern Shrike) on record," said Matt Young, bird population studies researcher for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "We broke a record, seeing 9 just on the Ithaca Christmas Bird Count alone," he said. Researchers for the Lab's Birdsource program, utilizing volunteer reporters across the U.S., showed large numbers moving into the Northwest, Midwest, and even the extreme southwestern part of the species' range in central and southern New Mexico during November and December. Unfortunately no data were available for January and February when more southerly penetrations may have been noticed.

Subspecies and Status

The Northern Shrike is also known as the Great Grey Shrike in Europe. The scientific name, *Lanius excubitor*, can be roughly translated as sentinel or watchman butcher, or the watchful butcher (Terres 1991). Illinois birds are presumably from the L. e. borealis race (Bohlen 1989), which nests from northeastern Ontario to northeastern Labrador, although this would assume the birds entering Illinois would either have to cross the narrow land bridge in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, then work their way due west, and then south along Lake Michigan, or they would fly west, then southeast around Lake Superior. It would be just as likely that some birds observed in Illinois are coming from the extreme eastern populations of *L. e. invictus*, with the closest populations of that subspecies breeding in northwestern Quebec and northern Manitoba. These populations are only relatively slightly farther away and would enter Illinois from the northwest with the prevailing fall northwesterly winds. However, few sightings have been reported in Missouri, even though it would be expected that birds of the invictus subspecies would visit here if they visited Illinois (see Robbins and Easterla 1992). A check of museum specimens, which are few and far between, would be needed to confirm the hypothesis.

As summarized by Chapel (1999), the status of the Northern Shrike in Illinois, especially in central Illinois, has changed rather dramatically. Birds are now observed annually in central Illinois, where until the mid-1980s the species would have been considered accidental by the number of sight records (see IORC 1999). Changes in observer effort and ability, at least in central Illinois, would not seem to be the reason for this increase, as many of the pre mid-1980s observers are responsible for most of the recent records as well (pers. obs.).

In all, for the winter 1999/2000 season, at least 105 Northern Shrikes were seen in 32 Illinois counties. Of that number, 80 birds were reported from 20 northern Illinois counties, and a record 24 birds were reported from 11 central Illinois counties, plus the aforementioned southern Illinois record (Table 1). Of these, 39 were reported on Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs), plus an additional during count week. Another was found on an Illinois/Iowa CBC, but is not included because it was observed in Iowa. Graber et al. (1973) found Northern Shrikes were fairly uniformly distributed from 20 October through March, except for three definite peaks – in late October, late March, and during the Christmas Bird Count period. The Grabers suspected inaccuracy in some of the October and March records of Northern Shrikes, since those months overlap with Loggerhead Shrike migration. However, today ornithologists generally believe Northern Shrike migration also occurs during these periods. December through early January, Northern Shrikes retreat from increased cold and snow cover farther north.

The first shrike appeared on the near record early date of 10 October 1999, an immature at Northwestern University landfill in Evanston, noted by Josh Engel and Bob Hughes. The last report was the latest since the 1995/96 invasion. The report came from Sangamon County in central Illinois on 29 March 2000, where it was noted by D. Bohlen as "very actively fly-catching." Of the 105 birds seen, 61 (58%) were identified as adults and 15 (14%) as immatures. The rest, 29 (28%) were not aged. In addition, observers reported at least 4 Loggerhead Shrikes, 3 in northern Illinois and 1 in central Illinois, as well as several shrike species. Extreme dates of arrival and departure for Northern Shrikes in Illinois are 7 October 1981 at Illinois Beach State Park and 16 April 1932 at Blue Island

Table 1.
A summary of Northern Shrikes reported by county during the 1999/2000 winter season in Illinois.

County	No. Birds	Age
DuPage	17	5a,3i,9u
Cook	16	7a,4i,5u
Lake	14	10a,4u
Will	6	5a,1i
McDonough	5	3a,1i,1u
DeWitt	4	3a,1i
Sangamon	4	3a,1i
Winnebago	4	3a,1i
Jo Daviess	3+	2a,1u
McHenry	3	2a,1i
Champaign	3	1a,1i,1u
Lee	3	2a,1i
Boone	2	1a,1i
Ogle	2	2u
Vermillion	2	2a
Carroll	1+	1u
Cass	1	1a
DeKalb	1	1a
Grundy	1	1a
Henderson	1	1a
Kane	1	1a
Kendall	1	1a
Iroquois	1	1a
LaSalle	1	1a
Madison	1	1a
Marshall	1	1a
McLean	1	1a
Piatt	1	1a
Rock Island	1	1a
Stephenson	1	1a
Whiteside	1	1a
Woodford	1	1a

Total Birds N = 105
a = adult, i = immature, u = unknown
Total Adults: N = 61(58%)
Total Immature: N = 15(14%)
Total Unknown: N = 29(28%)
N = Northern Illinois,
C = Central Illinois,
S = Southern Illinois

(Cook Co.) (Bohlen 1989).

Identification

At this point, it makes sense to say a few words about shrike identification. A juvenile Northern Shrike is easy to separate from Loggerhead and Northern adults. Juvenile Northern Shrikes are broadly washed in brown over much of the dorsal area, and the wing coverts, tertiaries, and secondaries are edged with brown, and even the bar through the eye is dull brown. Juvenile Northerns also usually have much stronger barring on the ventral surface than adults. If a shrike is not seen well enough to determine the age, then it's probably not been seen well enough to be called a Loggerhead or Northern.

All the popular field guides, including National Geographic, oversimplify the ease to which these two species can be separated. Kaufman (1990) apparently does not consider the challenges of separating the species difficult enough to deserve mention in his advanced birding guide. Yet many shrikes go unidentified over a large part of their range where temporal aspects of their migration or winter range place them together. In fact, the average annual departure date for Loggerhead Shrike in Sangamon County is one week after the earliest arrival dates for Northern Shrike in the state (Bohlen 1989). Bohlen also shows many of the earliest spring arrivals for Loggerhead as being before or near the same time as departures of the latest wintering Northern Shrikes. Additionally, one or more Loggerheads are relatively frequently found wintering in central and or northern Illinois. The 1999/2000 winter season was no exception; as mentioned above, at least 3 Loggerheads were reported in northern Illinois, and 1 in central Illinois. Perhaps a Northern Shrike incursion causes at least some observers to look more closely at any shrike they come across, while causing others to I.D. (perhaps incorrectly) a shrike simply by location.

In separating the two shrikes, observers should look for several different field marks. Several excellent articles discuss some of the more salient field marks (see Zimmerman 1955, Balch 1988, Granlund 1995) I can do no better than repeat these criteria (from Balch 1988) for separating Loggerhead and Northern Shrikes:

The bird is a Northern Shrike if it has any of the following:

- A larger, longer, heavier bill.
- Much white or gray in the lores (a broken mask) with conspicuous whitish feathers at the base of the upper mandible.
- A white spot below the eye.
- Light color on the bill after mid-February
- Light color on the upper mandible (any month).

The bird is a Loggerhead Shrike if it has any of the following:

- A smaller, stubbier bill.
- An all dark bill before mid-March.
- Black nasal tufts.
- Black feathers at the base of the upper mandible.

Along with the high numbers of shrikes, a significant percentage of immatures (14%) was observed in the 1999/2000 winter population in Illinois. Typically, most birds in Illinois are reported as adults. The only other age-related data I could find for this species' occurrence in winter was McPeek & Adams (1994) for Michigan birds. Specimen data who "most of our winter visitors to be immature birds." Voles represent a large part of the Northern Shrike's diet in its northern breeding grounds as well as the wintering grounds. It's possible that in years when the vole cycle crashes, adults force immatures out of the optimal areas. It would be interesting to know if a latitudinal segregation occurs within this species with respect to age and/or sex. This type of differential migration has been noted in many species such as Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Howell 1953, King et al. 1965, Ketterson and Nolan 1976), to name a few. Kerlinger and Lein (1986) showed another cyclical species, the Snowy Owl, has a preponderance of 1st year birds in some areas during their irruptive movements, as well as a segregation of males and females.

Territories

One problem encountered when trying to sort through the Northern Shrike reports from regions with exceptional concentrations the winter of 1999/2000 was determining just how many birds were actually present. The problem was especially true for Fermi-Lab and Morton Arboretum in DuPage County, as well as the numerous sightings around Clinton Lake in central Illinois. Northern Shrikes occupy large territories during both the breeding and winter ranges; this phenomenon occurs across the species' range. Some Ohio Northern Shrikes hunted over great circular routes. An observer followed one Northern Shrike for 2.5 miles during 30 minutes, and it still had not completed its circle (Zimmerman 1955). Atkinson (1993) measured average wintering territories of six color-banded and six radio-tagged birds in Idaho and found the average shrike occupied 540 acres, although more than one-half of the activity was confined to a core area of about 125 acres. In Sweden, scientists estimated 3.7 wintering individuals occupied approximately 35 square miles each (Lefranc 1997). It is unclear if any of these studies occurred

during invasion years. Given that Illinois lies at the periphery of this species' wintering range, especially central Illinois, territories are probably even larger in the state. This may also be partially due to habitat fragmentation and degradation. In addition, the density of the wintering western subspecies seems to be higher than the density of eastern subspecies (Cade 1967). Given these data, I felt it prudent to eliminate some multiple bird sightings in DuPage County and Clinton Lake.

A number of the birds observed during the 1999/2000 invasion appeared to set up fairly discrete territories. Although it is impossible to tell if any of these birds were actually the same individuals noted on subsequent visits, it is likely many were. In several cases, some of the birds could even have been birds seen in previous winters at those locations (see Rimmer and Darmstadt 1996). However, some of the shrikes birders thought were the same individual could have been other birds. For example, Atkinson (1993) noted that after one of his study birds died, another appeared in the same territory within a week. And this phenomenon occurred in a region where densities of wintering birds are lower than in the East.

Fourteen locations, involving seven counties, reported Northern Shrikes for a period of two months or longer (including eight with stays of over three months). All but one of these (Sangamon Co.) involved northern Illinois areas, especially Cook, Lake, and DuPage Counties. An additional seven locations reported birds for over a month. Most other sightings were of only one or a few days, especially those that were reported from CBCs. Of those identified to age, all but two were adults. The average length of stay for the 14 longest overwintering areas was about 98 days, or well over three months. The four areas where shrikes were noted the longest were from Cook and Lake Counties, with sightings from Crabtree Nature Center (142 days) 24 Oct. – 13 Mar., Paul Douglas Forest Preserve (138 days) 30 Oct. – 15 Mar., Lake Villa (120 days)

Adult Northern Shrike. Lake Villa, Illinois. Lake County. The bird stayed a remarkable 120 days. It was first seen on 25 October 1999 and last seen 21 February 2000. Photo by Richard Biss.

25 Oct. – 21 Feb., and Ron Beese Park (117 days) 19 Nov. – 14 Mar. All of these were adults and represent exceptional attempts by the two birders involved (Carolyn Fields and Richard Biss) to find and report their sightings. The longest downstate area reporting a shrike was Dave Bohlen's immature bird at Lake Springfield (113 days) from 8 Dec. – 29 Mar. Northern Shrikes were also reported from Fermi-Lab from 28 Oct. – 9 Mar., but due to lack of information it was not possible to determine how many individuals may have been involved at any one location.

Linear habitats also appear to be important for wintering Northern Shrikes. Territories of three birds near Frondenberg, Germany, were found to be approximately 100 to 150 acres, with each being a long strip along the banks of the Ruhr River (Mester 1965). At the Idaho study site, each of the 12 territories contained two or three types of linear habitats, which included country roads (with utility lines for perches) and riparian stretches (Atkinson 1993). I have observed similar linear habitats in central Illinois birds, including roadsides where favored habitat (thorny scrub and wet meadow) was combined with convenient perches (utility lines and scattered, medium-sized trees). At least three other sites in central Illinois during the 1999/2000 season included linear sites, all along Interstate right-of-ways. These sites could be some of the only substantial wintering habitat available in the corn and soybean desert of central Illinois (R. Chapel, pers. comm., pers. obs.). Unfortunately, these kinds of territories have also been shown to create a high source of mortality for shrikes (Lefranc 1997).

Site fidelity

Studies as well as numerous anecdotal accounts strongly suggest the Northern Shrike is site faithful to winter territories, and possibly even migration stop-over sites. Site fidelity may be an important strategy in this species' life cycle for surviving the non-breeding season, since winter mortality has been suggested as the consequence of an inability to maintain home ranges (Rimmer & Darmstodt 1996). In fact, Cade & Swem (1995) postulate the survival of these shrikes during the winter season is never high enough to allow nesting populations to reach their potential carrying capacity in the breeding ranges. (See also Cadman 1985 and Brooks 1988.) That theory may be the reason large areas that seem suitable for breeding and wintering grounds for Northern Shrikes are not utilized, and it also may be the reason why territories in Illinois during the winter, are so large.

Many Illinois observers mentioned to me that areas where they saw Northern Shrikes in the 1999/2000 season were the exact areas where they saw shrikes in past winters (D. Johnson, J. Milosevich, D. Wenny, B. Glass, M.J. Easterday, D. Williams, G. Wagner pers. comm.). Illinois' birding listserve, IBET (Illinois Birders Exchanging Thoughts) also had posts with the same comments. Regions where the phenomenon seemed to be the most pro-

nounced include Cook, Lake, and DuPage Counties. Fermi-Lab (DuPage County) and Illinois Beach State Park (Lake County) seem to be especially common areas to find Northern Shrikes on any given winter in Illinois (see DeVore 2000). It's likely some of the same birds return year after year to the same site in Illinois. Karl Bartel of Blue Island, Illinois, banded a Northern Shrike at Palos (Cook County) in November 1981, then retrapped it in fall 1982 and on 13 January 1983, demonstrating winter site fidelity for this species in Illinois. Winter site fidelity has been shown several times throughout the species' range (Rimmer & Darmstadt 1996).

Cycles

National CBC data from 1900 through 1980 show that Northern Shrikes go through irregular series of cycles or fluctuations. Davis & Morrison (1988) showed the abundance of shrikes was cyclical, from about 1900 to 1940, then fluctuated irregularly after 1950, with the last big fluctuation (up to 1988) occurring from 1956 to 1958. Their study shows cyclicity is temporary, at least for some species including Northern Shrike. They also state the typical predator-prey relationship may not necessarily be the only reason for fluctuation in this species' numbers.

Atkinson (1993), analyzing CBC data, found that unlike the Loggerhead Shrike, both the eastern and western subspecies of the Northern Shrike have been reported in a greater proportion of CBCs over the past three decades. Bias such as observer awareness and identification skills, better optics, and other reasons are given as possible explanations for this increase, although I would reject that explanation for the increase in central Illinois records. It does seem clear, however, that in light of this species' apparent decline in numbers in the eastern U.S, CBC data showing an increase in numbers does contain biases, which may mask actual declines (Atkinson 1993).

High counts for Illinois appear to be 8 (Waukegan CBC) 1 January 1996; 7 (Fermi-Lab CBC) 16 December 1995; 6 (Kishwaukee CBC) 30 December 1995; 5 (Evanston CBC) 30 December 1995; and 5 (Fermi-lab CBC) and 5 (Lisle Arboretum CBC) 18 and 19 December 1999 respectively (Johnson & Stokie 1996, D. Johnson, personal communication). A non-CBC high count of 3 was seen at Illinois Beach State Park on 13 November 1983 (Mlodinow 1984).

Like the Davis & Morrison (1988) study, Atkinson (1995) found Northern Shrike winter numbers have been cyclic, but only in the eastern subspecies from 1960 to 1989. His data showed the most significant cycles were of eight years duration, and showed a pulse of shrikes in the east every four and 15 years. Western shrikes appeared to have two relatively strong pulses at four- and nine-year intervals.

Researchers have hypothesized that Northern Shrike irruptions correlate well with Snowy Owl invasions. Davis (1949) offered data disputing the hypothesis. Snowy Owls from 1947-1969 had peaks that corresponded well to shrike invasions, but only four times, and after 1965, the synchrony ended (Davis & Morrison 1988). Research in Arctic Alaska showed lemmings, a major prey base of Snowy Owls, were not a major prey base of Northern Shrikes (Cade 1967). Additionally, Northern Shrikes are rare or absent in most places where lemmings are cyclic, and no real correlation between shrikes in western states and declines of lemmings exists (Davis 1974). Limited attempts to correlate winter shrike movements with large invasions of one of its common prey bases, small birds, showed no clear associations (Bent 1965). Based on these findings, it's more probable that Northern Shrikes are cyclic in response to their own, more localized prey.

It also seems to me it's more likely that if shrikes corresponded with another bird of prey in response to fluctuating rodent numbers, that species would be the Northern Saw-whet Owl, whose prey base might overlap with the shrike's prey base. In the winter of 1995/1996, observers reported record movements of Northern Shrikes and Northern Saw-whet Owls nationwide. If nothing else, a connection may exist between the two species since both have difficulties finding prey after heavy snows or extreme drops in temperatures, when favored prey become unavailable. LeBaron (1996) noted this possible relationship as well, and mentioned a record movement of Northern Saw-whet Owls, although they apparently did not irrupt as far as Illinois that year (see Johnson & Stokie 1996).

Habitat

Reports of wintering Northern Shrikes invariably associated these birds with riparian or other mesic areas where wet, tussocky grasses provided good habitat for its favored prey species, voles and small birds (Atkinson 1993). Most accounts of the Northern Shrike's winter habitat from other mid-western states are rather vague and can be summed as open areas with scattered trees and bushes (see Mumford and Keller 1984, Peterjohn 1989, Robbins 1991, Kent and Dinsmore 1996). The same can be said of Illinois birds. However, reports garnered from IBET during the 1999/2000 invasion as well as my past experience show the birds overwhelmingly seem to prefer habitats in Illinois with a large percentage of marsh or at least wet, grassy areas. Bohlen (1989) also states they "seem to prefer marshy situations" in Illinois.

From site locations described on IBET, the wintering habitat of Northern Shrikes in Illinois occurred in and around the perimeters of shallow and deep water marshes (e.g., McKee Marsh, Moraine View State Park, Volo Bog State Natural Area, Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve, Goose Lake Prairie State Park, Nelson Lake

Marsh), the edges of rivers or lakes (e.g. Horseshoe Lake, Clinton Lake, Windfall Lake, Third Lake, Kishwaukee River, Rock River, Lake Michigan, Silver Lake, Lake Shabbona, Lake Springfield, Sangchris Lake State Park, Baker's Lake, Herrick Lake), and sites in wet prairie and other marshy habitat (Chain O' Lakes State Park, Fermi-Lab, Crabtree Nature Center, Meredosia National Wildlife Refuge, West Chicago Prairie, Hidden Lake Forest Preserve, Springbrook Prairie). One ornithologist commented the Northern Shrikes seen at the Savanna Army Depot did not utilize the drier grasslands where Loggerhead Shrikes breed at that site (D. Wenny personal communication). Atkinson's (1993) Idaho birds frequented riparian areas more than expected and grassy areas less than expected. Observers did report Illinois birds in dry, upland grassy areas including pastureland at the base of wooded bluffs in Marshall County and in a few other areas.

Feeding Habits

One of the more interesting characteristics of Northern Shrike behavior involves what it eats and how it catches and disposes of its prey. Like other members of its family, Northern Shrikes catch their prey, then store them in caches known as larders by impaling them on many types of sharp projections including barbed wire and the spines and thorns of trees and shrubs. Hawthorns, crab apples, osage orange and barbed wire are common sites for Loggerhead Shrikes in Illinois (pers. obs.), and are likely sites for wintering Northern Shrikes as well.

In a study by Yosef (1993), Northern Shrikes on their breeding grounds in Israel responded to the placement of barbed wire fencing on their hunting grounds by reducing territory size. The shrikes immediately began using the barbed wire for impaling sites and each male's territory size shrank almost immediately. Loss of extensive areas of barbed wire fencing in the Midwest and other locations may

Illinois' southernmost documented record (pending IORC review) of Northern Shrike on 28 November 1999 near Horseshoe Lake in Madison County. Photo by Frank Holmes.

have been one of many reasons for the decline of Loggerhead Shrikes, and may have implications for management of Northern Shrikes (whose numbers are also decreasing) on their wintering grounds.

The Northern Shrike possesses extremely acute vision. Cade (1967) has noted shrikes wintering in New York fly directly from tree-top perches to traps baited with mice or small birds, over courses in excess of 200 yards. Cade has also witnessed wild shrikes attack caged shrikes or free-flying trained birds from distances approaching 1,000 yards. One of his trained birds could even spot flying bumblebees at least 100 yards away.

Northern Shrikes spend long hours on perches scanning their hunting grounds. The perches are usually 3 to 24 feet high. The bird sometimes remains in one spot for up to 30 minutes, but usually changes perches more frequently. Wintering shrikes in Sweden covered distances of 7.3 miles per day, using about 3.5 perches per mile (Lefranc 1997).

Shrikes catch most invertebrate prey by simply mashing them. The hooked beak and powerful jaw muscles can be lethal weapons to vertebrate prey, and can leave bloody fingers to those vertebrates "lucky" enough to catch one during banding operations. Just ask Jonathan Simms of Lombard who caught an immature bird at Camp Sagawau in the Palos area of southwestern Cook County the winter of 1999/2000. Simms said, "My fingers will remember this for a long time." Cade (1967) summarizes the actual treatment of both avian and mammalian prey, but says "the attack is always immediately directed at the neck of the quarry... the cervical vertebrae often being severed in two or three places," exactly as in falcons. Cade continues: shrikes "usually catch birds in their feet... although they occasionally try to strike them down with their beaks... On the other hand, a shrike does not grab a rodent in its feet, because it (the shrike) is likely to be bitten. Instead it harasses the rodent by jumping and dancing erratically around the prey, then delivers a series of quick bites." Cade (1962,1967) reported most birds are taken by surprise and rarely while in flight; this is further substantiated by Mester (1965). Many times the Northern Shrike drops off a high perch and begins flying low to the ground through fairly dense shrubs trying to flush avian prey into the open. Failing this method, the shrike may actually enter a bush and move about the branches flashing its white wing patches and twisting its tail around to scare prey into more open areas (Mester 1965). I observed a shrike at Moraine Hills State Park (McHenry County) on 8 January 2000 perched in a small area of brush, marsh, and wet prairie. Suddenly it dropped to just above the marsh vegetation and began a quick flight through the small willows and dogwoods. At one point, it dropped to the ground and seemed to disappear, but was back up to its perch a few minutes later, apparently unsuccessful.

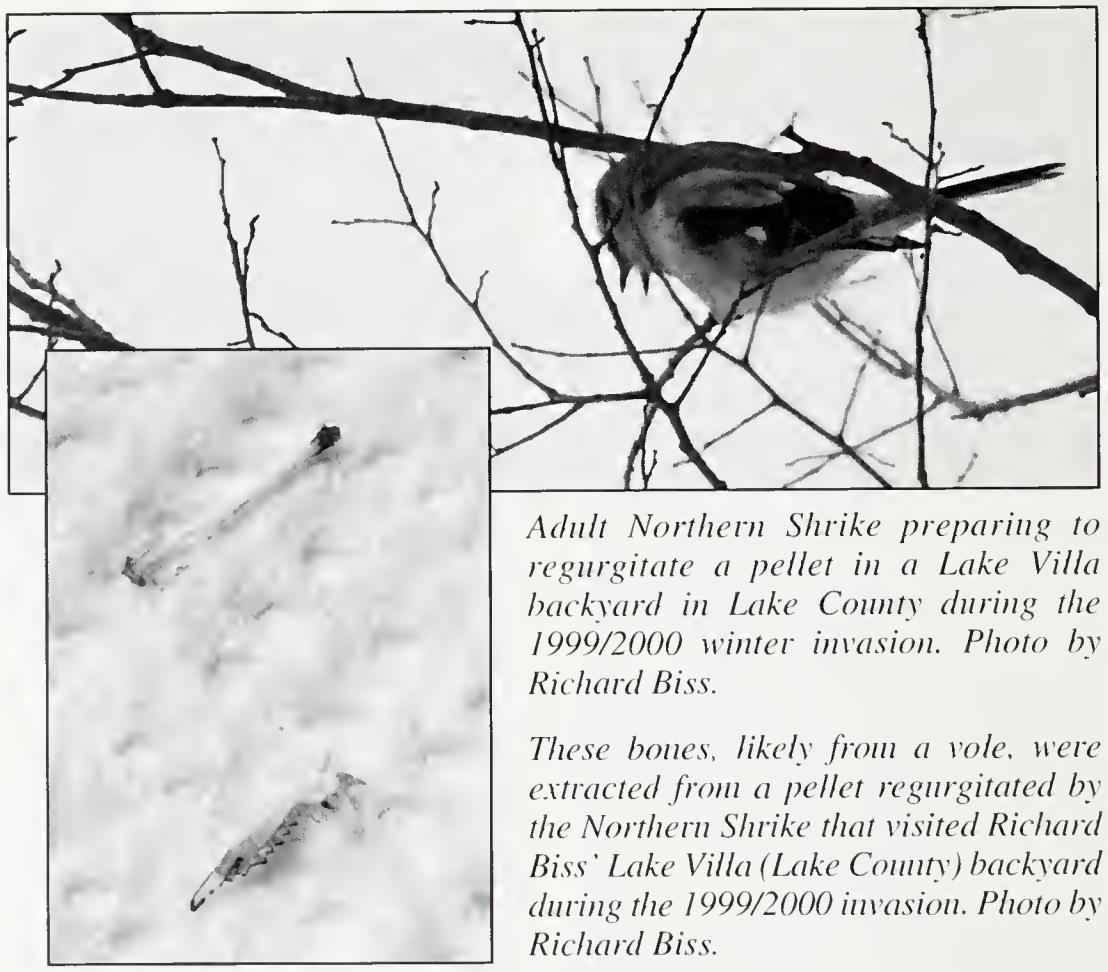
Prey Species

Studies of winter shrikes have shown most prey consisting of arthropods (mainly large beetles and grasshoppers) and small animals including lizards, frogs, birds, and mammals (Mester 1965, Atkinson&

Cade 1993). In the eastern U.S, including Illinois, the main prey items are likely voles (Microtus sp.), mice (Peromyscus sp.), and small birds up to robin or starling size. Very little specific prey of Northern Shrikes seen in Illinois has been mentioned in the literature. In studies done on wintering shrikes in Idaho, arthropods and small mammals (mainly Microtus sp.) were the most important prey items, as measured by number (63.9% and 29.8% respectively). Small mammals were the most important items by biomass (83.1 %); birds only contributed 11.8% by biomass (Atkinson & Cade 1993). Atkinson and Cade made some direct observations during the Idaho study, but they mostly used pellet analysis to identify shrike prey. (See Mester 1965, Bent 1965, and Cade 1967 for some interesting direct observations of shrikes taking prey.) Northern Shrikes form pellets much like hawks and owls do, from the undigestible parts (fur, bones, and chitinous materials) of their prey.

A long list of prey items exists for the Northern Shrike, among the most unusual are worms, snails, and crayfish (Lefranc 1997). Species of spiders, caterpillars, flies, wasps, bees, and other insects have been taken during the breeding and non-breeding seasons (Bent 1965, Cade & Swem 1995). Among mammals, small rodents, especially voles, come first in importance (Mester 1965, Lefranc 1997). However, deer mice, harvest mice, wild house mice, and shrews (Sorex sp.) also supply the shrike with food (Cade 1967, Atkinson & Cade 1993, Cade & Swem 1995). Cade (1962) found shrikes kill small rodents up to 25 grams within a few seconds. The largest rodent a shrike can handle, weighing in at 80 to 100 grams, may take many minutes and several bites.

Birds as a prey species seem to have drawn much attention in the literature. In fact, Mester (1965) observed a shrike feeding on a Gray



Adult Northern Shrike preparing to regurgitate a pellet in a Lake Villa backyard in Lake County during the 1999/2000 winter invasion. Photo by Richard Biss.

These bones, likely from a vole, were extracted from a pellet regurgitated by the Northern Shrike that visited Richard Biss' Lake Villa (Lake County) backyard during the 1999/2000 invasion. Photo by Richard Biss.

Partridge caught in deep snow, although the shrike probably found the bird as carrion. Several authors mention Northern Shrikes as having a propensity toward scavenging (Bent 1965, Lefranc 1997). Shrikes likely turn to a more avian prey base when severe climatic conditions such as extreme cold and heavy snow cover make it harder to obtain both insect as well as small mammalian prey. High mortality is the probable outcome of large incursions of this species into Illinois and elsewhere during the non-breeding season, and is probably one of the main limiting factors in this species life cycle.

Few studies exist regarding details on avian prey in the winter in North America. For Illinois, Graber et al. (1973) mention only Dark-eyed Juncos and House Sparrows as shrike prey. Atkinson & Cade (1993) show shrikes also favored juncos, followed by White-crowned Sparrow and Horned Lark, while another examination of pellets of wintering shrikes contained 7 House Sparrows, 5 juncos, and 3 American Tree Sparrows. The list of Northern Shrike avian prey, it seems, is endless. Though the shrike mainly takes small passerines, observers have witnessed Northern Shrikes attacking birds as large as Pine Grosbeak, Killdeer, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Hairy Woodpecker, and even Least, Semipalmated and Baird's Sandpipers (Bent 1965, Mester 1965, Cade 1967, Atkinson & Cade 1993, Cade & Swem 1995).

Shrikes take advantage of birds in vulnerable situations, including at banding operations in traps and mist nets, at bird feeders, and even entering buildings (see Bent 1965, Mumford and Keller 1984). I found Illinois records of a shrike entering a bird trap at a banding station of a W. A. Lyon in Waukegan (Lake County) going after a junco on 20 March 1921. Lyon (1930) also had at least 6 Northern Shrikes enter his yard one winter after birds in his traps, and apparently shot the first five. As mentioned earlier, Karl Bartel caught shrikes in his traps in Blue Island, Illinois on several occasions (Bohlen 1989).

Few reports of shrike attacks in

nearby Midwestern states mention food, and most of it is avian prey. One immature was seen attacking a Mourning Dove 10 November 1964 at Bristol, Tennessee, and was subsequently collected (Robinson 1990). A shrike was seen capturing a junco near Gary, Indiana on 24 January 1976 (Brock 1986). Mumford & Keller (1984), for Indiana, also include juncos, House Sparrows, and Carolina Wren as Northern Shrike prey species, and mentions shrikes chasing bluebirds and a Mourning Dove.

Illinois Birders' Experiences

Jonathan Simms mentions the shrike he banded on 27 November 1999 was less than 1 foot away from a House Sparrow in the net, and may have either chased the bird into the net or gone after it when it was caught. Illinois birders mentioned a few other accounts of prey taken during the winter 1999/2000 invasion. Bob Fisher of Downers Grove said the shrike that visited his backyard feeding station chased House Sparrows. Ed Franks of Macomb in McDonough County, watched a shrike enter his yard, most likely pursuing birds. Paul and Barb Johnson of Chesterfield, Missouri, watched a Northern Shrike chase a small bird into some bushes at Horseshoe Lake in Madison County. An immature was seen "visiting" bird feeders at Fermi-Lab on 5 January 2000.

Other birders reported Northern Shrikes taking prey other than birds. Early upon their arrival, Carolyn Fields and John Wittbold saw an adult shrike hunting over a field near the marsh at Ron Beese Park, near Baker's Lake in Barrington, Illinois (Cook County). From the top of a multi-flora rose bush, the shrike "caught a big winged insect and swallowed it instantaneously." Gayle Wagner of McHenry County watched a shrike in the Bull Valley area "pluck what appeared to be a very frozen grasshopper impaled on a twig, and chomp it down." Wagner observed this while helping on a Christmas Bird Count 18 December 1999. Wittbold and Fields again saw a shrike that "appeared to be hunting insects" at the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve in Cook County on 5 March 2000. They watched it for almost an hour. "At times it was very active, diving to the ground, sometimes hovering and fluttering just above the ground, showing its beautiful monochrome pattern." They also heard the bird sing for several minutes.

Tom Lally watched a shrike "fly down to a small tree used as a caching site and yank the remains of some small mammal off a thorn and wolf it down," along I-355 near Woodridge in Will County 9 February 2000. Richard Biss watched a shrike in his Lake Villa yard (Lake County) "fly down to the marsh, catch a vole and eat him." Biss later saw the bird regurgitating a pellet (see photos). Fields also related a few other interesting behaviors. On 6 February 2000 at the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve, she watched the shrike "dive into some dense shrubs and not come out" at dusk. Fields said she had observed the bird at this location on several other occasions, and hypothesized it was probably the bird's roost site. On 3 March 2000 the same bird was "heard vocalizing from the top of one of the tallest trees. But it stopped as soon as it became aware of me." Fields also heard and saw a singing Northern Shrike on "the tip-top of a snag over the edge of the cattails at Baker's Lake" (Cook County). She described the song as being like a "funny Green-winged Teal, with a little churrr at the end."

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the numerous birders throughout the state, for without their input this article would not have been possible. Special thanks go to Sue Friscia for establishing and maintaining IBET, Illinois' excellent list serve, from where much of the material for the 1999/2000 Illinois invasion comes. Thanks also go to Sheryl DeVore for her excellent editing skills. Also, I sincerely appreciate the numbers of birders who responded to my numerous IBET posts, e-mails, and phone calls while I gathered more information on their sightings. Unfortunately, there are too many to mention here. However, especially helpful were Alan Anderson, Robert Chapel, Danny Diaz, Eric Walters, Dan Williams, and Geoff Williamson. Richard Biss, Geoff Williamson, and Jim Frazier's rare bird alerts also contained information on many of the shrikes reported on in this article. Matt Young of Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology, kindly provided his comments on the regional and national extent of the 1999/2000 Northern Shrike incursion. Thanks also go to Kelly McKay and David B. Johnson for providing me with drafts of their winter and CBC field notes, as well as their thoughtful comments concerning Northern Shrikes. Finally, I thank Carolyn Fields for taking the time to report her interesting observations to IBET, and thus contributing some valuable behavioral anecdotes to Illinois' ornithological history.

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— Steven D. Bailey
Illinois Natural History Survey
607 E. Peabody
Champaign, IL 61820
sdbailey@mail.inhs.uiuc.edu

A Remarkable First Illinois Record: Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*)

by Pam Sprout

Juvenile male Scott's Oriole at backyard feeder. First accepted state record. Photo taken sometime between mid-January and 3 February 2000. Toulon, Illinois. Stark County. Note the overall yellowish plumage (seen in the color photo), long, slightly decurved bill, and fine streaking on the back. Photos by Pam Spront.

Bold, fearless, different—the Intrepid. Intrepid was the name my husband, Barry, and I jokingly gave the mystery bird that arrived on our suet cake feeders in mid-January 2000.

The bird first appeared mid-morning15 January. We have five general feeders, three finch feeders, and four suet feeders in front of our home. Our suet cakes are homemade. Our home in Toulon, Illinois in Stark County, faces east on a quiet north-south one-block street. We watch the birds often from a large picture window in the dining room; the binoculars are always close by.

At first, we mistook the bird for a starling because of its size; Barry started to open the front door to scare it away, since starlings are not necessarily popular with the other birds or us. However, he noticed the olive-yellow coloring on the underside. I grabbed the binoculars to get a closer look, then made notes of all its physical features.

Plumage

The bird was about 8 inches in length. The entire underside including the basal half of the tail was yellow with an olive tinge. This coloration was also on the lower back under the wings. The tail was dark olive-brown with a slight notch. The bird's head, upper back, and throat were olive-brown with darker olive-brown streaks or mottling matching the tail's color. A black spot was beginning to appear on the throat. Dark olive-born wings sported two white wing bars. A noticeable character was the straight, long black bill. Later observation showed white on the edges of both upper and lower mandibles, as well as a few white feathers at the base of the bill on both sides. The iris appeared dark brown or black. Under certain light conditions, I observed a dark eye mask, which didn't appear on photos, but could be seen on the video. The legs and feet were also black.

Discovery and identification

The bird's initial visit occurred when the mid-January temperature was about 46 degrees F a low of around 27 degrees F. During that brief mid-morning visit, he ate at the suet feeder 6 feet in front of the house, then left for the day. The next day the temperatures were 32 degrees for a high and 22 degrees for the low. However, on this day our mystery friend returned to the suet cake in mid-afternoon. He stayed longer than the day before. Again, we looked through our bird guides with more scrutiny attempting to identify him. No luck in finding a bird with his markings.

It seemed the bird was alternating his feeding times between mornings and afternoons. He then started coming during the morning and returning in the afternoon, staying for longer periods each time. On 19 January, Mother Nature pulled a cruel trick on our mystery bird by dipping the temperatures from 27 degrees to 1 degree and dumping 6.5 inches of snow.

By this time, Barry and I realized the bird was going to be a daily customer. The more he came and ate, the more frustrated we became. Again,

we had searched through our bird guides, our friend's bird guides, and even sneaked a peek at bird guides in the bookstore. We just could not locate any bird east of the Mississippi River that had all the correct characteristics. He was consuming all of our time.

We were impressed with his table manners. He would "study" the contents of the suet before he pecked something. He did not gobble greedily like the starlings, or hammer rapidly like the woodpeckers. He was not aggressive towards the other birds. He would not get on the suet if another bird were on it. He would not fly away if another bird landed on the opposite side of the suet. He had no fear of the cars going by on the street. He usually continued eating even when the other birds were frightened away.

I knew I needed to get pictures, so I place my little Minolta Freedom Zoom 70C camera on the sill of the picture window in the dining room. Each time the bird came and I heard, "Honey, the bird's back," I would literally crawl over to the window, slowly lift the camera, and try to zoom him in for a close picture. On 25 January, I took the last picture on the film and, high gas prices or not, we made a special 15-mile trip to Kewanee's Wal-mart and had our pictures in one hour. Talk about disappointment! We only had three clear pictures, none close enough to identify the bird accurately.

On 26 January, I began making long distance telephone calls trying to locate someone who could identify our mystery bird. Finally, after the third long distance call to the IDNR offices, I talked with Vernon Kleen, avian ecologist for the state. I explained who I was, where I was located, and what I wanted to know. I read a physical description of the bird from my first-day notes, and as I spoke, it was on the suet feeder. Kleen suggested locate Baltimore Oriole in my bird guide. He said an immature male would show yellow with an orange tinge or orange splotches. I told him there was positively no orange on the bird, but who was I to dispute the expert? Kleen asked that I try to get some more pictures. I knew I had to get or borrow better camera equipment that would take a clear, close photo of our bird.

Soon I called a friend who had done some professional photography. His camera was broken, but he suggested we get a video camera so that we could zoom the subject in. Who had a camcorder?

On the evening of 27 January, we went to eat with our close friends, Harvey and Garna Dailey. I asked if they knew of someone who had a video camera. The next day we got the camcorder set up on a tripod directly in front of the big picture window. I proceeded to practice focusing on a Downy Woodpecker so that I would be prepared when our mystery friend came to feed. When the bird came, I turned on the video. After just a few minutes, the battery ran down and would not tape. I called our friend to get the other battery but it would not take a charge. All the while the bird was coming and staying longer, but not getting his picture taken. My next-door neighbor, Luann Bent, came over and was curious about the video camera. When I told her I was trying to get close-up pictures of a bird that was feeding here, she offered to loan us her camera. I was able to get excellent pictures with her Minolta Masum 300E. It was equipped with an AF70-210 telephoto lens. I used Kodak 400 Max 35mm film. The photos were taken and developed on 29 January. The video camera was now up and ready to roll.

On 31 January it was bright and sunny. The bird fed for almost four hours. He did leave for a while, as did all the other birds, when an American Kestrel landed in the tuliptree. We were able to get very good video pictures because of the sunny conditions and brightness from the snow still covering the ground.

We had our friends, the Daileys, and our daughter, Jody Booth, on this day. We had the chairs lined up in the dining room just like the movie theaters. I even served popcorn.

The mystery bird's farewell visit was on 3 February 2000. At approximately 8:30 a.m. he peeked over the edge of the porch roof gutter; then, hung on the gutter to peek around. He did not fly to the suet cake to eat.

Shortly thereafter we mailed the oriole photos to Vernon Kleen, and the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee on 13 Feb 2000 reviewed the photos and compared them against museum specimens at the Chicago Field Museum of Natural History. The committee members identified the bird as an immature male Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*), an Illinois first state record! Will Russell and Richard D. Palmer, both Arizona expert birders and residents where the bird occurd, concurred with the identification (in litt.) after reviewing several of the photographic images.

Distribution and origin

Why was our Scott's Oriole so many miles from his normal southwestern United States environment and habitat? The oriole is a regular summer resident in northwestern Mexico, west Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and is occasionally, if not rarely found, in California, Nevada and Colorado, and Wyoming. However, the bird apparently tends to be a vagrant. Unsual records have been reported for Ontario, Washington, Idaho, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, and Louisiana according to DeSante and Pyle (1986). The nearest recent vagrant record in the mid-West was from Wisconsin (Isenring and Frank 1996) in Adams County during the winter of 1995/1996—another most remarkable winter record—like ours! Why did this bird migrate the wrong way? Perhaps he got caught in a storm and was thrown off course. I personally think he had a Y2K bug in his computer.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Bill Oberg of Kewanee Water Works, a weather recording location, he kindly supplied temperatures and weather conditions for this article. I would also like to extend my thanks to Vernon Kleen who prompted us to pursue the identification and to get photographic and video evidence of this remarkable oriole.

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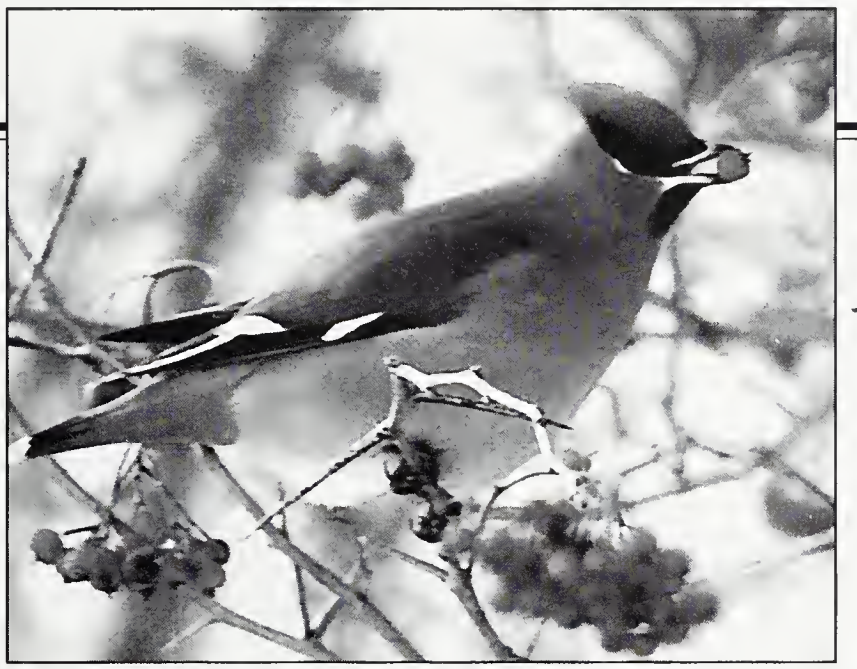
– Pam Sprout
507 N. Ogle
Toulon, IL 61483

A Rare Central Illinois Record for Bohemian Waxwing



Bohemian Waxwing. Rochester, Illinois (Sangamon County). 25 January 2000. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Although rare anywhere in the state, the appearance of a Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) in Rochester, Illinois (Sangamon County) from 22 -26 January 2000, and briefly again 21-24 February 2000, created a flurry of excitement among central Illinois birders, as well as many others statewide. Dave Bohlen found and reported the bird to the state's birding list serve, IBET. Peter Weber, who lived in Rochester at the time, maintained tabs on the bird, and was one of two other observers who saw the bird in February.

Bohemian Waxwings are exceptionally rare outside of the Chicago region in Illinois, where most historical as well as recent records have been reported. This bird was one of three records from Sangamon County in the last 30 years; the other records being a specimen from Springfield, 22 December 1972, now in the Illinois State Museum (Bohlen 1989) and another from Springfield, 21 February 1991 (Robinson 1991). Other central Illinois records gleaned from a few Illinois references include a flock of 14 at Forest Glen County Park in Vermilion County on 28 December 1985 (Goetz and Robinson 1988), one at Decatur (Macon County), 23 December 1972 (Bohlen 1989); one at Danville (Vermilion County), 28 February 1978 (Bohlen 1989); and one at Jacksonville (Morgan County) in November 1959 (Fawks and Lobik 1975). Two older central Illinois records are both from Champaign County, including a bird seen at Rantoul, 15 February 1917 (Kendeigh et al. 1976), and 12 birds seen in Philo, 26 February 1914 (Hess 1914).

Other recent sightings statewide include up to four birds, 17-10 December 1995 at Highland Park in Lake County (Danley 1996); one, 20 February 1993 at Rockford in Winnebago County (Branhagen 1993); and one at Glencoe in Cook County, 1-2 January 1990 (Robinson 1990). The winter of 1961/62 was the last large invasion of this species into Illinois and the Midwest (see Mlodinow 1984).

As with most sightings of this species in Illinois, the Rochester bird was feeding and flocking with Cedar Waxwings (about 50-150) and was eating the fruits of the numerous planted hawthorns lining a road next to a city park. Several American Robins and House Finches were also feeding on the hawthorn fruit with the waxwings. The flock of waxwings, including the Bohemian, frequently moved from tree to tree. Several birders also observed an American Kestrel harassing the waxwings and other birds.

While Wes Serafin and I were following the flock of waxwings, the Bohemian flew into a tree and landed 6 feet above my head in a small hawthorn where it then swallowed a couple of fruits. I noted the reddish brown undertail coverts, overall much grayer body plumage than Cedar Waxwing, and bright white, yellow,

and red markings on the wings, which were easily discernible. The black feathering of the throat was also more extensive and well-defined than on the other waxwings present.

Numerous observers saw this bird. A small article on the bird along with a photograph taken by Chris Young appeared in the *Springfield Journal Register*. Dennis Oehmke also provided the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee and the *Meadowlark* with exceptional photographs for documentation of this rarity. He was also responsible for re-finding the bird briefly in February.

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– Steven D. Bailey
Illinois Natural History Survey
607 E. Peabody
Champaign, IL 61820
sdbailey@mail.inhs.uiuc.edu

Rufous Hummingbird
(*Selasphorus rufus*) Livens Winter in Urbana

by Elizabeth J. Chato

On 1 December 2000, my friend and neighbor, Helen Ritter, called to tell me excitedly she had seen a hummingbird in her yard. Helen is not a "birder" but is an avid gardener who enjoys feeding and watching birds in her yard. Her hummingbird feeder had been taken down long ago, but the bird had found a few bright red pineapple sage blossoms that had survived the frost. As the bird had flown, I suggested she put her feeder back up and call me if the hummer returned. I also mentioned that late hummingbirds might be something unusual and that she should look for brown on its back.

On 3 December, Helen called again. Yes, the hummer was back and visiting the feeder, and it did appear to have a brown back. I rushed over and was able to watch the bird first from about 3 m away through a window and later from a bench outside on the deck. At once I was able to determine it was an immature bird, but not our usual ruby-throated variety. Extensive rufous on the back, upper tail coverts, and tail showed it belonged to the genus *Selasphorus*. Because I knew the difficulty in separating immature hummingbirds of this genus down to species, I wrote extensive notes of what I saw during the half hour that I watched it come and go. Most likely it was a Rufous Hummingbird (*S. rufus*), as we have had at least one in Urbana before (see Chapel 1997), but Allen's (*S. sasin*) was also a possibility. Since Helen was willing to have visitors come and enjoy this bird, I spread the word.

I also checked several references including an article on *Selasphorus* identification (Heidcamp 1997). I decided first that this was an immature male bird because it showed only a few red feathers at the upper outer edges of the gorget (not in the center) and solid rufous on the uppertail. I then decided it was a Rufous Hummingbird because of the solid rufous on rump, tail, and back , which showed only a few green feather edges).

Later observers thought they had seen a band on the leg, and efforts were made to find a bander who could net the bird and check the number. Very few banded hummingbirds are ever recaptured and it would have been exciting to find out from where this wanderer had come. The bird had other ideas however, and apparently left on 10 December, before bander and net arrived the next day. People did get good pictures and even a video for the record.

Either because more people are aware of the possibility, or because this species is extending its range, the Midwest is hosting Rufous Hummingbirds quite frequently in late fall. They are more cold tolerant than most hummers, living at high altitudes in the Rockies and being the only hummingbird ranging north into Alaska. Champaign County's first Rufous Hummingbird was documented by Robert Chapel at Urbana on 6 October 1996 (Chapel 1997). The bird was identified through photographs by Denis Oehmke and by examining the second and fifth rectrices after Steve Bailey, who has a permit to band

birds, netted the bird, then pulled and measured the rectrices.

Illinois' first record and specimen of the Rufous Hummingbird occurred on 14 October 1993 when Ellen B. and Sherwin Strauss discovered the species at their feeders in Olympia Fields, Illinois in Cook County (Strauss 1994). The immature male bird remained until 12 November when they discovered it dead not far from the feeder. The second record was discovered the same year on 27 October by Robert F. Danley at his backyard feeder in Murphysboro, Illinois, in Jackson County. The bird was last seen 15 January 1994 (Danley 1994). Two immature female birds that may have been Rufous or Allen's Hummingbirds were reported on 24 November 1986 in Macoupin County and 29 to 31 August in McDonough County (Bohlen 1989).

This bird that visited Champaign County in December 2000 was fortunate my friend provided a feeder, because the flowers on which it was initially feeding were frost-killed the day after its arrival. Hopefully its week's stay in Urbana fueled it for the long trip south to winter quarters.

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— Elizabeth J. Chato
714 W. Vermont
Urbana, IL 61801
j-chato@uiuc.edu

The 1999/2000 Illinois Christmas Bird Count

by David B. Johnson

Another tantalizingly warm CBC season had Illinois counters enjoying the warmest winter on record in the state. Accordingly, the counters also recorded many species high counts. Cormorant numbers skyrocketed (5,267 at Rend Lake). Sandhill Cranes wintered and lingered longer. The McHenry Count had 2,190 Sandhill Cranes, and Fermilab–Batavia had 727 cranes. Other lingered-longer awards go to Waukegan's two Le Conte's Sparrows and Joliet's 15 American Pipits. Greater numbers of western waterfowl than usual moved eastward, including the Greater White-fronted, Snow, and Ross's Geese. A new species, Smith's Longspur, was added to the state's CBC list, and birders recorded some very unusual finds including a rare loon, dove, and hummingbird. CBC data also reflected a modest winter finch invasion and a record Northern Shrike movement. See article in this issue for details. Two counts met or exceeded the 100 species mark, always an achievement in Illinois. The Illinois database of early winter bird distribution continues to change and grow, giving us information on bird population trends.

Count Results

Birders from 60 counts listed 158 species, including one of questionable identification, and one unrecognized form. Congratulations to the two counts with record 102 and 100 species, for the first time, Cypress Creek and Horseshoe Lake, respectively. Other counts under 100 species totals, but in the 90s, included: Baldwin Lake—Kaskaskia (90), a

Great Egret at Du Page County's Blackwell Forest Preserve. First time recorded on the Fermi-Lab Christmas Bird Count. 18 December 1999. Photo by Eric Walters.

record count; Carlyle Lake (95); Clinton Lake (90); Chautauqua (91); Mermet Lake (94); Pere Marquette (90); Rend Lake (95); Springfield (94), a record count; and Union County (98). No count in northern Illinois reached the 90 species mark. However, all-time species high count totals for northern Illinois were: Barrington (66) and Fermilab—Batavia (87). Pere Marquette had the highest number of individuals: 928,023, owing to a 864,433 Common Grackle count. Fermilab–Batavia recorded the highest number of field observers, 103, a remarkable number and an all-time high for field participants.

CBC Firsts and Rarities

At least three well-described **Smith's Longspurs** were at Newton, a first documented occurrence for Illinois's CBCs The Illinois Ornithological Records Committee welcomes and encourages photographic documentation of any winter record of this species for the state. Always rare, a **Pacific Loon** was at Clinton Lake. A well-described 2nd state CBC record of **Common Ground-Dove** was at Crane Lake Sangamon; and a **Rufous Hummingbird**, probably an adult female, was videotaped at Peoria. Other unusual bird sightings included American White Pelicans, previously almost never reported on CBCs. They lingered longer with 377 birds (on 4 counts). Solitary Great Egrets at Chicago Urban, Fermilab—Batavia, and Horseshoe Lake were noteworthy. Twenty- seven Ross's Geese appeared on four counts, with Pere Marquette having the highest count (twenty). The only scoters recorded were 5 Blacks (on 2 counts) with Clinton Lake being the only interior count to record a scoter (Black) plus Evanston's eight dark- winged scoter species.

Raptors to Gulls

Three Golden Eagles were seen at: Peoria, Meredosia Island, and Union. Solitary Merlins with good details were recorded at Evanston, Fermilab—Batavia, Middle Fork River Valley and Horseshoe Lake. Waukegan's two Virginia Rails have become a tradition. Sandhill Crane numbers (2,926 on 5 counts) reflected a northerly late migration over two early count circles in northeast Illinois—though the eight cranes in southern Illinois (on 2 counts) was not the norm either. Least Sandpipers lingered at Baldwin Lake (1), Horseshoe Lake (8), Mermet Lake (6) and Pere Marquette Park (34). Pere Marquette had the only Lesser Yellowlegs. Cypress Creek and Mermet Lake recorded the only American Woodcock.

Unusual gulls were two Great Black-backed Gulls at Calumet City—Sandridge. One Iceland Gull was at Evanston and another was at Fermilab—Batavia. Lesser Black-backed Gulls while unusual are being recorded with greater frequency; singles were at Calumet City—Sandridge, Fermilab—Batavia, Rend Lake, Collinsville; others were at Starved Rock (2) and Princeton (2) and a count week bird was at Springfield. Single Glaucous Gulls were at Calumet City—Sand Ridge and Fermilab—Batavia. Chicago Lakefront reported the only Snowy Owl and a count week bird was at Schapville.

Songbirds

Fifty-six American Pipits were recorded (on 6 counts), a good tally. Baldwin Lake (1), Cypress Creek (1), Union (1) and Mermet Lake (2) tallied only five Pine Warblers in the state. The only Common Yellowthroat recorded was a solitary bird at Union. Unusual sparrows included the aforementioned Le Conte's Sparrows (2) at Waukegan, one a Meredosia, and expected counts in southern Illinois: Baldwin Lake—Kaskaskia (1), Rend Lake (11), Cypress Creek (15), a high count for them, Carlyle Lake (4), Union (6) and Mermet Lake (1). Outside of 4 Lincoln's Sparrows reported on 4 southern Illinois counts, one of which was questionable, a very well-described Lincoln's Sparrow was at Fermilab—Batavia and other adequately described singles were at Andalusia and Middlefork River Valley. Excellent descriptions were provided for Harris's Sparrows on four counts: Crane Lake—Sangamon (2), Meredosia Island (1), Horseshoe Lake (1) and Pere Marquette Park (1). The only Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Peoria.

Count week had 3 Eared Grebes; one at Springfield and two at Clinton Lake; a Surf Scoter and a Sedge Wren both at Carlyle Lake.

Regularly Occurring Species

Lingering loons were widespread with 23 Common Loons recorded on 8 counts. Double-crested Cormorants numbers are burgeoning with 6,345 individuals in 28 circles. Great Blue Herons numbers like cormorants continue to rise: 1,768 individuals in 53 count circles (see histogram). The 86 Bald Eagles at Princeton were noteworthy as well as the 153 at Chillicothe and 151 at Peoria indicating the species' stronghold on the Illinois River valley and not just the Mississippi River valley; 1388 were recorded statewide (see histogram); even with the warmer CBC season weather this species is enjoying an obvious population success.

A species of concern, Red-headed Woodpecker, was reported in higher numbers: 2,008 (in 39 circles) over three times last year's count of 612 (in 47 circles). This is an encouraging sign particularly in southern Illinois riverbottom woods where this species has a wintering stronghold. Loggerhead Shrikes were also recorded in good numbers (73 in 16 circles). Eastern Bluebirds lingered farther north, Starved Rock's 52 birds and Middlefork River Valley's count of

Eastern Screech-Owl. Jackson County Christmas Bird Count. 1 January 2000. Photo by Rhonda S. Monroe.

Northern Saw-whet Owl. Champaign Christmas Bird Count. 18 December 1999. Photo by Helen M. Parker.

65 are very high numbers for north and central Illinois; the rest of the state's circles in southern Illinois also recorded good numbers (1197 in 33 circles). Both White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were well-represented statewide and in smaller numbers Field, Savannah, and Fox Sparrows were recorded on many counts. The House Finch's early wintering populations in Illinois (5,808 in 58 circles, see histogram) has stabilized. Purple Finch, in contrast, may be in trouble. Only 506 were recorded statewide in 41 circles, and one has to wonder if some of these were misidentified House Finches.

Irruptive Species

Red-breasted Nuthatches were in good numbers: 598 in 50 circles (see histogram); the nuthatch influx seemed to correspond with the influx of White-winged Crossbills, another spruce cone feeder. This was a Northern Shrike invasion year—40 individuals in 19 count circles, none in southern Illinois (see separate article on the winter invasion of Northern Shrikes). Winter finches teased observers with widely scattered reports: most remarkable were the four Evening Grosbeaks at Champaign, a species with "drought status" recently in Illinois. Quincy was the farthest south that Common Redpolls occurred with two individuals. Thirty-one at Peoria was a good count for the Illinois River Valley. The 17 White-winged Crossbills at Bloomington was noteworthy as were 18 at Springfield; elsewhere Evanston had three and Lisle, 16. Red Crossbills were at Chautauqua NWR (12) and Meredosia had 15 during count week. Pine Siskins had a good showing (808 on 24 counts); remarkable were the 250 siskin at Clinton Lake and most northern counts had good numbers.

High Counts

Twenty all-time state high counts were set for an individual species total recorded within a count circle. **1,597** Double-crested Cormorants and **4** Greater Yellowlegs were tallied at Rend Lake; **188** Great Blue Herons were at Horseshoe Lake. Pere Marquette Park tallied some record waterbird numbers with: **20** Ross's Geese, **1,755** Ruddy Ducks, and **67** Common Snipe. Union recorded a grand total of **900** Greater White-fronted Geese.

Princeton–Camanche, IA had a record **1,051** Canvasback along the Mississippi River. Crab Orchard NWR tallied **628** Hooded Mergansers. **2,090** Sandhill Cranes, a remarkable number, were at McHenry and this was a very conservative estimate of birds seen count day (4,000 were just over the border in Wisconsin in Walworth Co. just before the count period began, pers. comm. Lynne Carpenter). Cypress Creek captured three all-time high counts: an amazing **20,120** Northern Shovelers, **387** Northern Flickers, **229** Golden-crowned Kinglets, and **53** Winter Wrens, tying Horseshoe Lake's count last year. Newton tallied an amazing **41** Short-eared Owls. Carlyle Lake recorded **933** Song Sparrows. Calumet City—Sand Ridge had **94** Monk Parakeets. Evanston recorded **4** Black Scoters and a roost of **5,229** American Robins. Middle Fork River Valley capped off the record high counts with an American Crow roost of **267,000**.

Low Counts

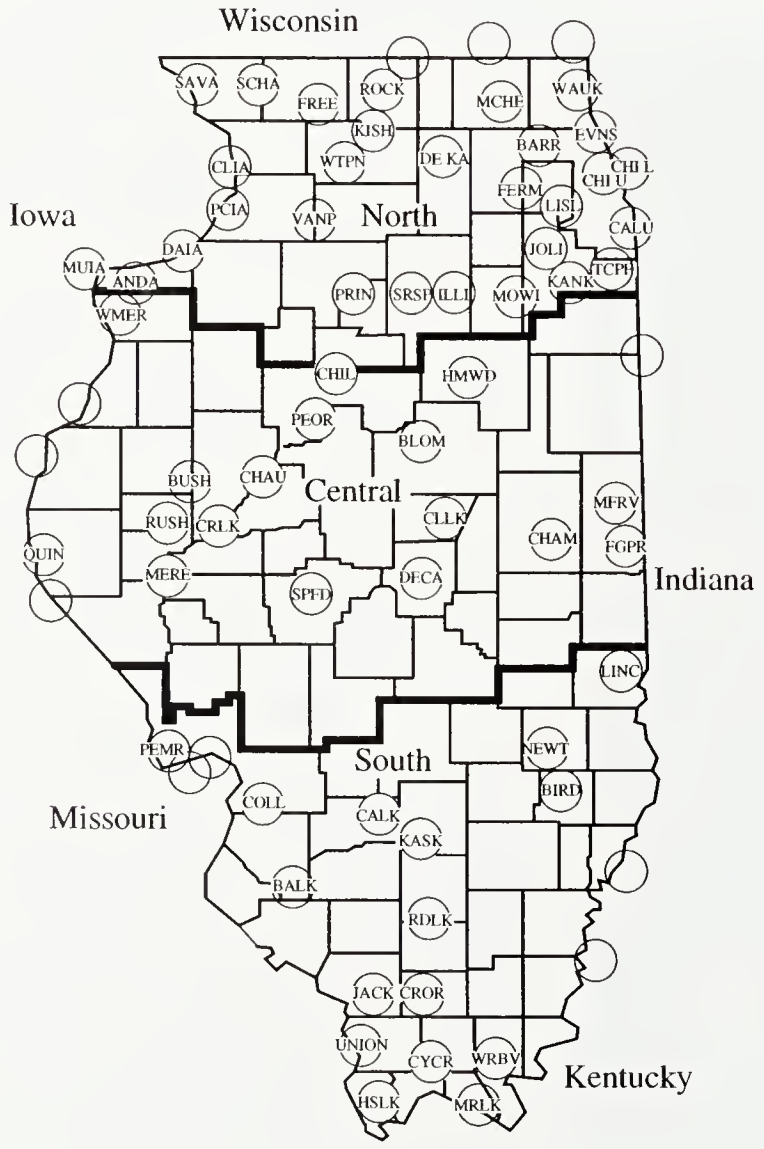
Long-tailed Ducks, again, were almost nil with 34 recorded statewide on 3 counts. Springfield had the only interior record. Even where this species is expected along Lake Michigan, it is becoming increasingly hard to find. It has been a long time—almost 20 years since there's been a good Northern Goshawk invasion; this is further evidenced by only two reports this CBC season; one at Kishwaukee and another at Meredosia Island. Where are the Gray Partridges in Illinois? None were reported again this CBC. Curiously no Ring-necked Pheasants were recorded in southern Illinois and very few were in the remainder of the state (287 on 31 counts)—a sign of decline? Chicago Lakefront reported the lone Snowy Owl for the state plus a count week bird at Shapville.

Identification Problems

While one can expect an occasional Lincoln's Sparrow lingering in southern Illinois, this bird is an extreme rarity in central and northern Illinois in winter. Those Lincoln's Sparrows reported without details are dropped from the database. Lincoln's can be confused with immature

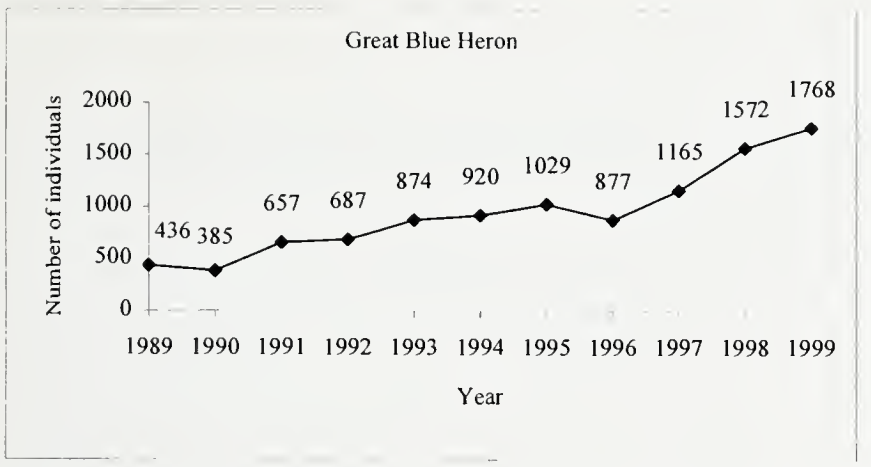
1999 CBC count circles.

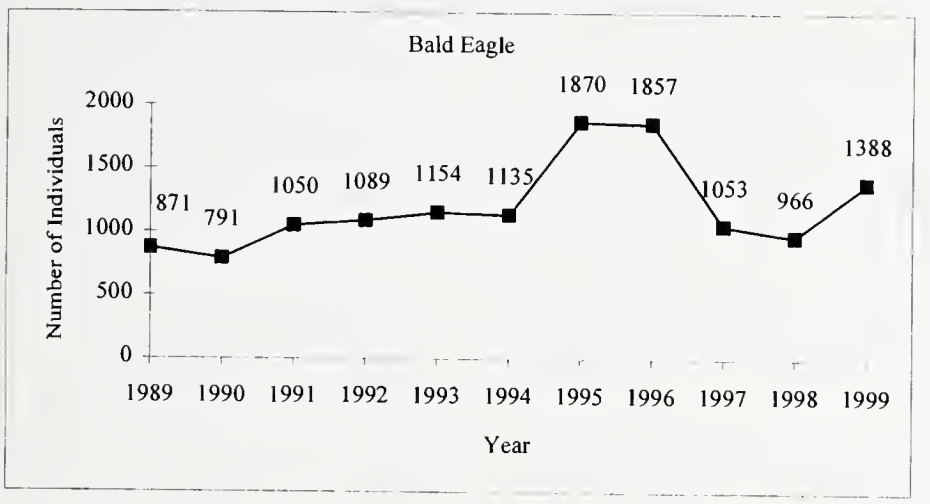
The empty circles which border the state do not report to the Illinois CBC.

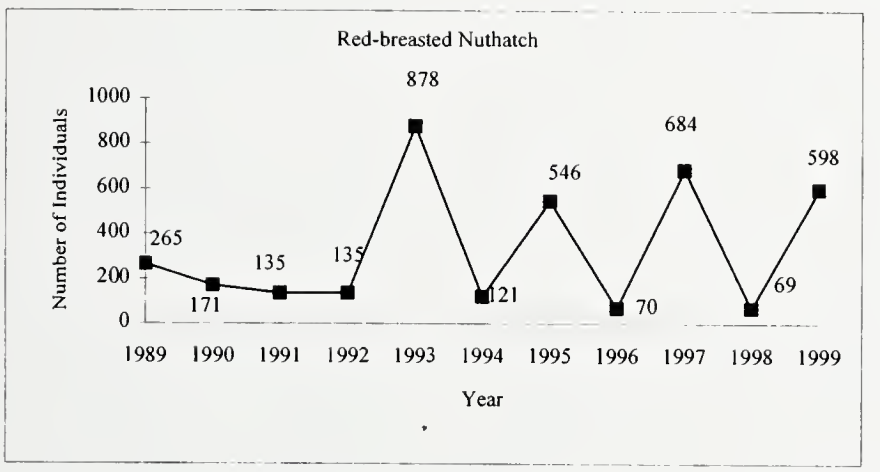


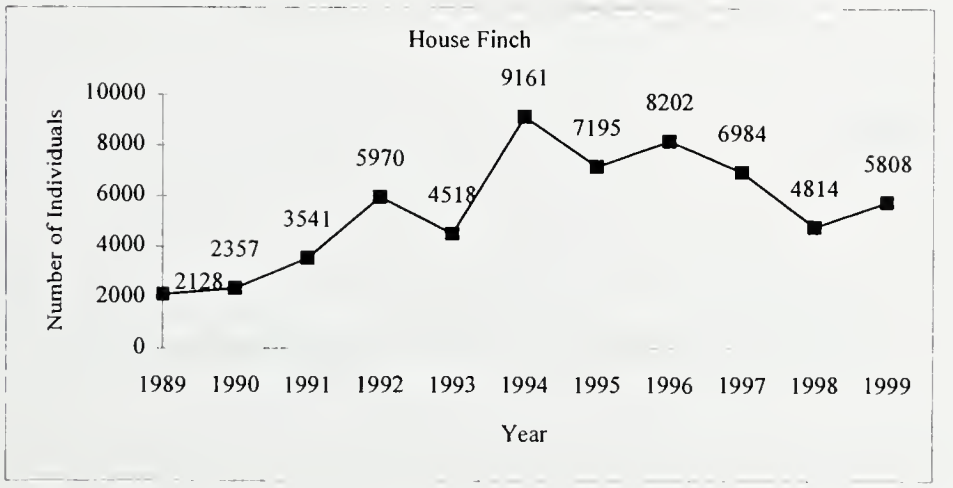
Key to Tables

Code	Description
cw	count week only (3 days before or after)
dd	details desired
ed	excellent details
gd	good details
hc	high count for that circle
HC	All-time High Count for the state
in IA	indicates the bird(s) actually in Iowa
imm	immature
lc	low count
nc	new species to that circle's count
NC	New to the state's Count species list
nd	no details
ps	Present for sometime
ph	Photographed
qd	questionable details
rn	remarkable number
rr	remarkable record
ud	unconvincing details
sub ad.	sub adult
vt	video taped
*	Documented species
boldface	Species/number/item of note









Swamp Sparrow, which has fine breast streaking and buffy breast, and also with Song Sparrow, which has a similar moustachial mark. Winter Chipping Sparrows must always be documented and preferably be photographed, because they can be confused with Clay-colored Sparrows. Finally, lack of detailed description of an Osprey reported on the Davenport CBC, kept the bird off the list, even though the observer was experienced with the species. From a distance, the Osprey can be confused with the Bald Eagle in sub-adult plumage from a distance.

Acknowledgments

A special thanks to Duane Heaton and Alan Stokie for their excellent help on this report. Without them I simply could not complete this task. Thanks to Diane E. Johnson who, year after year, updates the CBC circle map. Thank you Helen M. Parker for providing the Northern Saw-whet Owl photograph. Thanks, too, to the many Illinois compilers, observers, and feeder counters who continually support and contribute to this changing Illinois CBC database. I also sincerely appreciate all compilers' comments on their respective counts especially trends, high counts, low counts, and other important data.

Corrigenda

The Carolina Chickadees reported on the Humiston Woods CBC last year should be deleted from the 1998 Illinois CBC report. Also, the Newton CBC circle on the 1998 Illinois CBC map should have been placed several counties to the north; it is corrected on this year's map.

– David B. Johnson
504 Crown Point Drive
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
Djohnsoda@mediaone.net

Illinois '98 Christmas Bird Count • Table 1

Count Name	Map I.D.	Date	Time		Temp		Sky	Snow	Water	Wind	Wind Veloc.		Field	Feeder	Feeder	Parties	Party	Hours	Hours	Party	Miles	Miles	Owling	Owling	Compiler	Area
			Begin	*End*	*Low*	*High*				Direction	*Low*	*High*	Obsrv	Obsrv	Hours	Parties	Hours	on foot	by car	Miles	on foot	by car	Hours	Miles	Hours	
Andalusia	ANDA	27-Dec	0530	1730	21	28	Cloudy light heavy snow	4.50	Prtly Froz	NW	5	15	6	0	0.00	3	23.75	2.00	21.75	315.00	2.00	313.00	1.50	7.00	Kelly J. McKay	
Barrington	BARR	20-Dec	0515	1630	13	22	Partly cloudy, light snow	2.00	Prtly Froz	NW-W	8	20	30	4	6.50	12	74.50	44.50	30.00	312.00	40.00	272.00	1.50	1.00	Duane Heaton	
Calumet City-Sand Ridge	CALU	2-Jan	0700	1700	40	62	Partly cloudy, light rain	0.00	Prtly Froz	SW	20	25	24	3	6.00	15	70.00	26.00	44.00	307.00	34.00	273.00	0.00	0.00	Carolyn Marsh	
Chicago Lakefront	CHI L	25-Dec	0700	1500	13	28	Partly clear	0.00	Prtly Open	SW	10	20	14	0	0.00	1-5	22.75	14.50	3.50	63.25	13.25	37.00	0.00	0.00	Joel Greenberg	
Chicago (urban)	CHI U	19-Dec	0400	1600	28	40	Partly clear	2.00	Prtly Open	SE	5	12	21	10	10.00	13	90.00	80.00	10.00	277.00	77.00	200.00	4.00	12.00	Jeffrey Sanders	
Clinton IA	CL IA	16-Dec	0445	1730	12	25	Clear; cloudy	0.25	Open	SW	15	25	9	0	0.00	4	37.50	8.00	29.50	424.00	9.00	415.00	5.50	61.00	Kelly J. McKay	
DeKalb	DEKA	2-Jan	0700	1630	42	50	Partly cloudy	0.00	Prtly Froz	W	15	15	6	0	0.00	4	25.75	13.75	12.00	272.00	9.00	263.00	0.00	0.00	Kevin Jury	
Evanston (north shore)	EVNS	26-Dec	0415	1700	14	23	Clear	3.00	Prtly Open	SW	10	30	45	20	20.00	15	88.50	68.00	20.50	355.00	56.50	298.50	4.00	19.00	Ralph Herbst	
Fermilab-Batavia	FERM	18-Dec	0500	1700	0	27	Clear; partly cloudy	2.00	Partly Open	Calm	0	0	103	6	12.00	9-32	191.50	156.00	35.50	666.50	138.00	528.50	5.50	10.50	Denis Kania	
Freeport	FREE	18-Dec	0715	1615	5	25	Clear	2.00	Partly Open	SW	0	3	9	4	8.00	4	28.50	3.00	25.50	401.25	2.25	399.00	4.00	74.00	Keith Blackmore	
Illini State Park	ILLI	19-Dec	0445	1700	28	36	Cloudy; partly clear	0.00	Partly Open	SSE	0	8	12	5	2.00	4	40.50	9.50	31.00	450.00	11.00	439.00	2.00	23.00	Jim Hampson	
Joliet	JOLI	18-Dec	0700	1730	19	27	Partly Cloudy	0.00	Prtly Froz	W	5	10	11	3	4.00	9	57.00	29.00	28.00	413.00	36.00	377.00	0.00	0.00	Jerry Olson	N
Kankakee	KANK	27-Dec	1015	1415	26	26	Cloudy	3.00	Prtly Froz	NW	0	10	2	2	4.00	2	3.00	1.00	2.00	32.00	2.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	John Baxter	
Kishwaukee	KISH	2-Jan	0700	1700	45	59	Partly Cloudy	0.00	Prtly Open	SSE	15	20	27	6	12.00	12	84.00	48.25	35.75	515.25	59.75	455.50	2.00	5.00	Brad Grover	O
Lisle Arboretum	LISL	19-Dec	0415	1700	24	38	Partly clear; cloudy	0.00	Prtly Froz	SE	2	15	69	0	0.00	20-28	171.00	116.00	55.00	676.25	116.00	560.25	19.75	70.50	Geoffrey A. Williamson	
McHenry County	MCHE	18-Dec	0645	1700	5	22	Clear	2.00	Prtly Froz	Calm	0	0	37	0	0.00	18	72.20	30.50	41.70	527.25	32.50	494.75	1.50	23.00	David A. Frey	R
Morris-Wilmington	MOWI	1-Jan	0715	1630	20	46	Clear	0.00	Prtly Froz	S	0	5	13	4	5.00	9	71.50	22.50	49.00	540.00	34.00	506.50	0.00	0.00	John Stofan	
Muscatine IA-IL City	MU IA	26-Dec	0500	1730	27	40	Clear	4.50	Frozen	NW	20	40	12	7	7.00	5	42.00	8.00	34.00	516.00	7.00	509.00	0.00	0.00	Kelly J. McKay	I
Princeton	PRIN	31-Dec	0545	1730	28	41	Partly Cloudy	0.00	Prtly Froz	S	0	5	5	0	0.00	2	20.50	4.00	16.50	218.00	6.00	212.00	1.50	15.00	Jim Hampson	
Princeton-Camanche IA	PC IA	17-Dec	0500	1715	21	24	Cloudy	1.00	Open	SE	10	20	6	1	2.00	4	34.25	9.50	24.75	416.00	11.00	405.00	2.75	28.00	Kelly J. McKay	H
Davenport	DA IA	19-Dec	0345	1715	19	35	Cloudy	1.00	Open	S	0	10	21	8	9.00	8	62.50	18.75	43.75	425.25	23.75	401.50	7.50	72.50	Kelly J. McKay	
Rockford	ROCK	18-Dec	0700	1700	1	24	Clear	1.00	Prtly Froz	Calm	0	0	51	0	0.00	13-20	116.75	70.75	46.00	657.25	84.25	573.00	4.00	28.75	Daniel T. Williams	
Schapville	SCHA	29-Dec	0730	1700	29	43	Partly clear	8.00	Prtly Froz	SW	5	10	21	2	7.00	6	47.00	5.00	42.00	378.00	5.00	373.00	1.00	0.00	Terrence N. Ingram	
Starved Rock State Park	SRSP	1-Jan	0500	1730	35	47	Partly Cloudy	0.00	Prtly Froz	S-SW	0	10	11	2	2.00	6	45.50	20.00	25.50	394.50	31.00	363.50	2.75	30.00	John McKee	
Thorn Creek-Park Forest	TCPF	2-Jan	0600	1600	42	60	Clear; cloudy	0.00	Prtly Froz	SW	20	20	32	11	5.00	2	81.90	32.60	49.30	527.28	44.25	483.03	0.75	0.50	Jim Kelly	
Van Petten		2-Jan	0530	1700	38	59	Partly Cloudy	0.00	Prtly Froz	SW	10	30	13	2	2.00	6	31.50	8.25	23.25	322.75	10.75	312.00	1.50	23.00	Kelly J. McKay	
Waukegan	WAUK	1-Jan	0600	1700	26	48	Partly Cloudy	0.00	Prtly Froz	SW	0	8	29	41	68.50	9	104.25	87.25	17.00	410.25	82.25	328.00	2.00	1.50	S.Hickman & J.Greenberg	
White Pines	WTPN	18-Dec	0700	1700	3	20	Clear	1.00	Prtly Froz	NW	0	5	5	9	12.00	3	24.00	10.50	13.50	208.00	9.00	199.00	0.00	0.00	Jerry McCormick	
Bloomington-Normal	BLOM	18-Dec	0700	1645	21	32	Cloudy; partly cloudy	0.00	Open	E	5	10	15	0	0.00	5	40.00	28.00	12.00	214.00	26.00	188.00	0.00	0.00	Dale Birkenholz	
Bushnell	BUSH	18-Dec	0700	1700	24	32	Cloudy	1.00	Prtly Froz	E	0	5	11	0	0.00	6	47.25	17.50	29.75	301.00	18.00	283.00	0.00	0.00	Larry Hood	C
Champaign County	CHAM	18-Dec	0545	1645	25	32	Partly cloudy; clear	0.00	Prtly Froz	E	3	3	23	2	1.00	10	51.75	37.00	14.75	353.50	33.00	320.50	1.00	20.00	Helen M. Parker	
Chautauqua N.W.R.	CHAU	23-Dec	0615	1615	8	22	Partly cloudy, clear	1.00	Prtly Froz	WSW	5	8	23	1	1.00	7-8	59.25	27.50	31.75	363.25	27.25	336.00	1.00	3.50	Richard & Sig Bjorklund	E
Chillicothe	CHIL	2-Jan	0700	1630	35	60	Partly cloudy; cloudy	0.00	Prtly Froz	?	?	?	20	0	0.00	8	75.00	21.50	53.50	636.00	24.00	612.00	1.50	17.00	Tracy Meints Fox	
Clinton Lake	CLLK	17-Dec	0615	1645	30	52	Partly cloudy; Cloudy	0.50	Open	E-NE	10	20	13	0	0.00	7	49.00	33.00	16.00	354.00	33.00	321.00	1.50	15.00	Myrna Deaton	Z
Crane Lake-Sangamon	CRLK	18-Dec	0630	1700	26	32	Cloudy	0.00	Open	N	0	5	11	0	0.00	7	44.50	15.50	29.00	270.00	13.00	257.00	0.00	0.00	Robert Q. Randall	
Decatur	DECA	18-Dec	0530	1630	27	34	Cloudy: partly cloudy	0.00	Open	NE	0	10	13	1	2.00	8	46.50	21.50	25.00	377.00	19.00	358.00	1.00	15.00	Myrna Deaton	I
Forest Glen Preserve	FGPR	22-Dec	0500	1700	11	20	Cloudy: partly cloudy	0.00	Prtly Froz	NW	0	5	13	1	2.00	8	48.00	24.00	24.00	257.00	25.00	232.00	0.00	0.00	Marilyn F. Campbell	
Humiston Woods	HMWD	28-Dec	0700	1600	28	34	Partly cloud, snow flurries	0.01	Prtly Froz	NNW	0	5	16	11	22.00	10	34.00	25.00	9.00	116.00	110.00	106.00	0.00	0.00	Joe Jobst	R
Meredosia Island	MERE	21-Dec	0700	1700	6	25	Clear	0.00	Prtly Open	NW	0	5	5	0	0.00	4	29.00	5.00	24.00	316.50	10.50	306.00	0.00	0.00	Tony Ward	
Middle Fork River Valley	MFRV	1-Jan	0530	1800	26	54	Clear; cloudy	0.00	Prtly Open	SE	4	20	14	0	0.00	7-9	69.50	54.25	15.25	355.50	45.50	310.00	2.00	20.00	Steven D. Bailey	V
Peoria	PEOR	18-Dec	0700	1600	24	32	Cloudy; clear	0.00	Prtly Froz	SW	0	5	24	0	0.00	8	71.00	19.00	52.00	597.00	18.00	579.00	0.00	0.00	L. H. Princen	
Quincy	QUIN	18-Dec	0600	1600	26	33	Cloudy	0.00	Open	W	0	5	10	0	0.00	6	43.50	7.00	36.50	344.00	6.00	338.00	2.00	29.00	Ken Vail	T
Rushville	RUSH	18-Dec	0800	1600	32	24	Clear	0.00	Prtly Froz	NW	10	10	0	12	18.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Harold E. Hedden	
Springfield	SPFD	19-Dec	0400	1700	27	46	Prtly cloudy & foggy; cloudy	0.00	Open	SE	8	10	18	14	28.00	11-12	91.00	49.00	42.00	516.00	44.00	472.00	7.00	65.00	H. David Bohlen	
Western Mercer Co.	WMER	22-Dec	0500	1730	14	20	Partly cloudy, snow; clear	2.00	Prtly Froz	W	5	15	7	0	0.00	1-4	35.75	2.50	33.25	297.75	2.75	295.00	4.00	37.00	Kelly J. McKay	
Baldwin Lake-Kaskaskia	BALK	18-Dec	0430	1700	25	35	Cloudy; partly clear	0.00	Open	NW	10	12	13	3	4.00	6	34.50	26.75	7.75	243.50	17.50	226.00	1.50	0.50	Tim Dever	
Bird Haven Sanct.-Olney	BIRD	18-Dec	0645	1700	30	34	Cloudy	0.00	Open	WSW	10	15	19	0	0.00	9	61.00	13.50	47.50	463.00	13.00	450.00	0.00	0.00	Frank E. Storment	
Carlyle Lake	CALK	21-Dec	0700	1700	13	17	Clear; partly cloudy	0.00	Prtly Froz	NW	5	10	13	0	0.00	5	50.00	35.00	15.00	372.00	36.00	336.00	4.00	76.00	Dan Kassebaum	
Collinsville	COLL	18-Dec	0730	1630	31	33	Cloudy. clear	0.00	Open	N	8	8	13	0	0.00	5	42.50	17.50	25.00	314.50	24.50	290.00	0.00	0.00	Leon B. Hendrickson	S
Crab Orchard N.W.R.	CROR	18-Dec	0630	1715	32	37	Cloudy light rain	0.00	Open	NE	5	10	14	0	0.00	6	57.50	20.50	37.00	297.00	13.00	284.00	1.50	10.00	Tracy R. Evans	
Cypress Creek	CYCR	17-Dec	0630	1700	28	55	Clear; partly cloudy	0.00	Open	W	0	10	26	0	0.00	10-14	114.25	79.75	34.50	435.25	76.75	358.50	0.00	0.00	Jeff Hoover	O
Horseshoe Lake	HSLK	28-Dec	0545	1730	19	45	Clear	0.00	Open	S	5	15	16	0	0.00	8-11	82.00	43.50	38.50	457.00	40.00	417.00	3.00	0.00	Vernon Kleen	
Jackson County	JACK	1-Jan	0500	1730	28	67	Clear; partly cloudy	0.00	Prtly Froz	Calm	0	0	17	1	2.00	7	58.25	25.25	33.00	304.50	19.50	285.00	2.25	68.00	Rhonda S. Monroe	D
Lincoln Trail State Park	LINC	18-Dec	0647	1700	28	37	Cloudy; partly clear	0.00	Open	N	0	5	17	3	3.00	6	41.25	9.00	32.25	292.75	7.75	285.00	0.00	0.00	Charlotte Connerton	
Mermet Lake, Massac Co.	MRLK	31-Dec	0645	1700	30	57	Partly clear	0.00	Open	SW	0	5	9	1	1.00	5	46.00	24.00	22.00	228.00	19.00	209.00	1.00	0.00	Frank Bennett	L
Newton	NEWT	21-Dec	1200	1630	12	28	Clear	0.00	Prtly Froz	N	5	10	12	0	0.00	4-6	40.00	13.00	27.00	388.00	18.00	370.00	1.50	15.00	Jeffery W. Walk	
Pere Marquette Park	PEMR	18-Dec	0730	1630	30	38	Cloudy; clear	0.00	Open	NW	5	15	30	0	0.00	9	65.00	27.00	38.00	339.00	20.00	319.00	0.00	0.00	Robert Thomas	H
Rend Lake	RDLK	18-Dec	0230	1700	27	38	Cloudy; partly cloudy	0.00	Open	SW	5	15	11	0	0.00	4-5	43.50	25.00	18.50	381.00	21.00	360.00	8.00	77.00	Keith A. McMullen	
Union County	UNION	29-Dec	0445	1730	21	52	Partly cloudy	0.00	Open	S	3	10	19	0	0.00	11-13	101.00	59.00	42.00	454.00	48.00	406.00	3.25	0.00	Vernon Kleen	
Warbluff Valley Sanctuary	WRBV	30-Dec	0630	1705	34	55	Clear; partly clear	0.00	Prtly Froz	Calm	0	0	13	1	2.00	7-8	59.00	25.50	33.50	292.10	16.10	276.00	1.50	8.25	Andrea Douglas	
					23.37	**37.28**							**1122**	**201**	**290.00**		**3492.85**	**1778.60**	**1709.50**	**21950.13**	**1831.60**	**20206.03**	**123.50**	**981.50**		
					AvLow	**AvHi**							**Total**	**Total**	**Total**		**Total**			**Total**			**Total**	**Total**		

Illinois '98 Christmas Bird Count • Northern Counts

Species	WAUK	EVNS	CHI U	CHI L	CALU	MCHE	BARR	FERM	LISL	TCPF	JOLI	KANK	DEKA	MOWI	ILLI	ROCK	KISH	SRSP	FREE	WTPN	PRIN	TOTALS
Common Loon				1		1 hc																
Pied-billed Grebe			5 hc	1 ps	[1-cw]	1		2	2 hc		4			10	2		cw					
Horned Grebe	1				1	1 hc																
Double-crested Cormorant	2	1	1	1	30				3		5			38 hc	11			7				
Great Blue Heron	7	11 hc	7 hc	3 hc	8	6	5	21	34 hc		27			25 hc	17	10	3	41 hc			42 hc	
Great Egret			**1* ed**					**1* nc hc**														
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1		5		10																	
Greater White-fronted Goose	2										1* gd											
Snow Goose	5	1	1		1	1	2	17	1		1			36		33	1					
Canada Goose	35385	6649	1628 hc	2140	1970	8929	14018	28981	11696	2671	7445	1036	110	12398	1536	6671	3831	1600	1244	569	1036	
Mute Swan	32		2		107	3	4	2	5	3		2										
Tundra Swan				3 hc													2* nc hc gd					
Wood Duck	2	3	3		1	2		3	4					2	4	4				1		
Gadwall	36	4	45 hc		18	6	4	14	118		126			501 hc	67	1	12 hc	7				
American Wigeon	9		6					8	6					156	28		2 hc	1				
American Black Duck	58	25	22		38	4	3	24	20	6	9			351	136	18	15	3		2	4	
Mallard	2773	2256	1667	467	2244	2165 hc	1150	3817	4794 hc	940	796	104	620	45702	30740	1231	2023	871	72	92	1327 hc	
Northern Shoveler	2		cw				89* ed	65	2		3			7	3			1				
Northern Pintail	4	1	1		1						1			8	27							
Green-winged Teal			1	2 ps					43		24			3	20	4 hc						
Canvasback	4						2 hc							7	19							
Redhead	14	6		1	4	1											3 nc					
Ring-necked Duck	3	1	3		1	3	650 hc	2			22				6	1	1					
Greater Scaup	11	446		350	?																	
Lesser Scaup	16	177	8	1	1967	2	2 hc				17			34	1		1 nc					
scaup sp.	28	51			700																	
Black Scoter		**4 HC**																				
scoter sp.		8																				8 - sp.
Oldsquaw	24	8			[1-cw]																	
Bufflehead	132	19	2	17	25						3			15	1		cw					
Common Goldeneye	409	197	28	287	140	4	55	10	2		15			3709 hc	279		15	151			1	
Hooded Merganser	27	1	8	4	28	2	1	2	8		27			160 hc	81	3	cw	4				
Common Merganser	214	11	1	11	200		cw	10	41		15			6028	61	37 hc	22 hc	127	57		1106 hc	
Red-breasted Merganser	75	45	14	290	66		7 hc				1			109 hc	7		1 nc					
Ruddy Duck	16	2	4	8 hc	1	9 hc	1 hc	7 hc	4		2			57	8							
duck sp.								35	21	157												
Bald Eagle		1		1		1	1* ed	1* ed					1	4	1	3	8	29			86 hc	
adults								1						2	1	2	6	18			39	
immatures		1		1			1							2		1	2	11			47	
unknown						1							1									
Northern Harrier	8 hc	1			1		2	13	1	6	1		1	6	7	2	10	5		1	1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	8	1		1	1	2*	6 hc	4	2	2			7 hc	4	5	1	1	2			
Cooper's Hawk	3	8	3 hc		3	6	3	13	7	1	6		3	2	3	4	10 hc	2	1	1		
Northern Goshawk																	1* gd					
accitpiter sp.									1							3	3					
Red-shouldered Hawk			1				1*			1						1	1	1				
Red-tailed Hawk	53	51	17 hc	1	51	78 hc	65	129 hc	114	61	37	2	19	62	44	124	78	54	70	32	56	
Rough-legged Hawk	1	3	2		2	2	3	5	4	6	2		2	2		12	9	3	3	4	4	
American Kestrel	10	8	9	2	29	8	9	38	29	25	21		21	23	35	23	25	37	13	11	12	
Merlin		1						1* hc gd														
Peregrine Falcon		4 hc ps	1								2*											7
hawk sp.								2		1						1 buteo						
Ring-necked Pheasant	1				1	7	5	10		2	8		1	24	3	45	7	2	22	1	2	
Wild Turkey						5									2	133 hc	2	1		69	4	
Northern Bobwhite																**12**	3					
Virginia Rail	2																					2
American Coot	51		9 hc	141 hc	194	24	60 hc	4	2		15			2809	223		cw	2				
Sandhill Crane						**2190* HC RN**	cw	**727* hc rn**	1													
Killdeer		1									4					2	1 nc	1			4 hc	
Common Snipe		3	1					1	2							14				2	8 hc	
Bonaparte's Gull															46							
Ring-billed Gull	658	1587	1122 hc	732	1148	117	783	1389 hc	584	69	466		2	784	606	11	19 hc	934			880	
Herring Gull	769	436	118	148	509	4	8	1165 hc	52	8	25			531	16	4	13	573			1690 hc	
Thayer's Gull	2		1	4	1			5 hc										1				
Iceland Gull		1						1* ed hc														2
Lesser Black-backed Gull					1			1 hc										2			2	
Glaucous Gull					1			1 hc														2
Great Black-backed Gull					2																	2
gull sp.	74	105		25			61	77	28							2	1			2		
Rock Dove	542	671	1400	506	571	390	196	571	1580	685	315	37	86	173	296	1085	742	132	234	120	128	
Ringed Turtle-Dove									1		37			5								43
Mourning Dove	708	380	213		336	281	268	947	608 hc	365	298	9	45	79	123	368	214	159	169	121	29	
Monk Parakeet			1	10	**94 HC**																	105

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Eastern Screech-Owl	5	17	7				cw	7	39 hc	2			2	1		6	3	4	1			
Great Horned Owl	13	12	8 hc		2	8	10 hc	22	21	4	4	1	2	4	2	17	2	3	6	2	5	
Snowy Owl				1																		1
Barred Owl			1							4						14	8 hc	2	3		4	
Long-eared Owl		1					4	4		5						2			1			
Short-eared Owl						3		3														
Northern Saw-whet Owl			cw						2 hc													
owl sp.																	2					2 sp.
Belted Kingfisher	7	5	4		2	8 hc	4	21 hc	21		5		2	8	3	1	6	4	1	1	2	
Red-headed Woodpecker							1		1	4				2		9		1				
Red-bellied Woodpecker	69	50	44 hc		8	36	15	89 hc	138 hc	50	16		13	55	20	101	89 hc	30	19	18	23	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2							4 hc	5							2	cw					
Downy Woodpecker	131	269 hc	166 hc	5	42	66	47	284 hc	277 hc	74	62 hc	2	33	57	35	227	144	52	32	25	18	
Hairy Woodpecker	52	51	60 hc	1 rr	8	9	4	29	44 hc	11	16 hc		2	15	5	56 hc	37	1	2	6	4	
Northern Flicker	10	2	1			1	10	14	15	6	12		2	10	5	20	17	6	2	2	8	
Pileated Woodpecker																1		1				
Eastern Phoebe															1* ed							
Loggerhead Shrike										1* gd												
Northern Shrike	3	2	1			3	2	5	5 hc		1			3		2	1	1		1		
Blue Jay	60	7	24		54	83	10	103	162	70	37	1	13	70	48	237	80	36	78	39	14	
American Crow	888	3209 hc	1303 hc	32	1310	552	525	1207	1464 hc	1172	410	4	971	195	127	2283	3425	251	322	361	78	
Horned Lark		4				23	7	99	1	339	124	51	32	126	80	87	105	68	116	47	58	
Black-capped Chickadee	459	483	469 hc	9	132	261	249	846	987 hc	171	141	1	40	110	88	597	350	122	90	118	33	
Tufted Titmouse	3	3	1		9			14	27	38	10	6	2	27	13	28	39	32	4	23	8	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	40	29	10		4	26	6	26	22	17	9		1	8	2	19	13		6	7		
White-breasted Nuthatch	51	45	45 hc		20	52	10	111 hc	158	40	31	3	11	51	21	206	164	48	21	34	19	
Brown Creeper	5	19	51			7	3	38	19	3	6		12	29	8	75	68	11	1	6	2	
Carolina Wren	2		1		1		cw	1	4	2	2			2							1	
Winter Wren	4		1			1	1	1	2							4	1			1		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	4	2			9		9	5							14	cw	5		10		
Eastern Bluebird		1				4 hc		2	17 hc									52 rn			5	
Hermit Thrush	2	3	1				1* gd	2	3													
American Robin	597	5229 hc	212	1	11	2	153	144	736	9	42			10	3	4	8	1		1	1	
Northern Mockingbird				1 ps																		
European Starling	8353	13363	1500	76	3155	1589	799	4826 hc	5963	5929	3073	50	1170	3757	2701	4351	2436	4875	1162	591	1387	
American Pipit											**15*ed,rr**											
Cedar Waxwing	278	42	31			32	130	136	587	17				16		64	212			16		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	17	10	18				9* gd	2	24					7		3						
Eastern Towhee																1						
American Tree Sparrow	639	247	54	1	118	431	563	3199 hc	849	103	209	2	24	274	265	993	253	92	362	867	232	
Field Sparrow		2						2* ed						3		4	8			1* ed		
Savannah Sparrow								10* ed hc							1	2 nc hc						
Le Conte's Sparrow	**2* nc hc ed rr**																					
Fox Sparrow	2	6	7 hc		1		8* hc	28 hc	15 hc		1			1		7 hc				1	1	
Song Sparrow	55	34	15		19	18	24	200 hc	89	16	26		3	22	18	110	94	54	4	51	38	
Lincoln's Sparrow								1* ed														
Swamp Sparrow	23	3	2		1	6	7	126 hc	52		7			3	2	63 hc	10	2		23	12	
White-throated Sparrow	30	45	28	3	2	6	64	98 hc	110 hc	7	7	1	5	18		29 hc	48	8	1	1	2	
White-crowned Sparrow	4	7	1		4	2	19	40	2	7				7			1			2	38	
Dark-eyed Junco	931	770	615 hc	19	310	694	1042	1635 hc	1787 hc	311	493	25	143	386	428	1584	518	398	383	221	102	
Oregon form														3								3
sparrow sp.		1																				1 sp.
Lapland Longspur								1		271			72			40	4	1380 hc	1		400 hc	
Snow Bunting	41	2	5	11						4	20				6	161	59	1	18		35 hc	
Northern Cardinal	225	306	232	5	105	188	325	709 hc	527 hc	134	117	1	23	104	62	406	160	71	81	59	66	
Red-winged Blackbird	429	9	2		969	2	92	63	8	7	18			791	4203	2	15 hc	1204			31	
Eastern Meadowlark		1						20						1								
meadowlark sp.																	1		1			2 sp.
Rusty Blackbird					4										1			3				
Common Grackle	2?	35	1		33		7	5	cw	2	229			820	12344			10251 hc			300 hc	
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	20	1		250	19	97 hc	1	cw	20	29			91	1858		cw	116	1	2	214 hc	
blackbird sp.	50				33	1												75000 hc				
Purple Finch	5	2	2		24	cw	cw	2	12		1				2	17	4			13		
House Finch	256	181	303 hc	1	104	162	171	337 hc	273	152	167	30	32	60	8	338	306	26	116	77	3	
White-winged Crossbill		3							16 ps													
Common Redpoll			1					3	1	2							3					
Pine Siskin	38	10	10			26	27	4	130	32	5			60	3	13	105	22	40			
American Goldfinch	278	339	287 hc	47	139	167	65	426	633 hc	203	86		27	65	89	338	214	38	74	108	43	
House Sparrow	776	1489	2400	46	623	735	894	1032 hc	1835	923	497	50	78	698	613	1274	805	597	1209	293	312	
Total species	**84**	**81**	**80**	**42**	**68**	**65**	**66 hc**	**87 hc**	**74**	**55**	**70**	**21**	**37**	**74**	**68**	**73**	**69**	**67**	**42**	**49**	**54**	
Total individuals	**57031**	**39568**	**14289**	**5416**	**18003**	**19486**	**22865**	**54155**	**36909**	**9237**	**15711**	**1418**	**3626**	**81837**	**57528**	**23679**	**16898**	**99620**	**6045**	**4056**	**9921**	

Illinois '98 Christmas Bird Count • North/Central Counts

			Northern									*Central*									
SPECIES	SCHA	CL IA	PC IA	DA IA	ANDA	MU IA	MERV	FGPR	CHAM	HMWD	BLOM	CLLK	DECA	CHIL	PEOR	CHAU	CRLK	SPFD	MERE	BUSH	TOTALS
Pacific Loon												**1* ed rr**									1
Common Loon												**7 hc rn**				1 nc hc		4			
Pied-billed Grebe				2			3				1	13	14	2	cw	5		112hc			
Horned Grebe												7						16 hc			
[Eared Grebe]												[2 - cw]						cw			[3 - cw]
American White Pelican																			22		
Double-crested Cormorant		2		11			**1 nc**					3 hc			6	9	31 hc	1			
Great Blue Heron	1	69	9	3		3	13	4	4	2	11	16	16	14	101 hc	111	48 hc	28 hc	79	5 hc	
Turkey Vulture							1														
Greater White-fronted Goose		1*				1*	3		cw			13				1	**38 hc**	**63 hc**			
Snow Goose							1				1		13	1	33	1	60	77	75		
Ross's Goose													cw								
Canada Goose		1923	372	1675	319	288	2422	135	853	207	3969	670	673	1624	4319 hc	8043	354	1300	135	833 hc	
Mute Swan																15 hc		13 hc			
Trumpeter Swan																5 hc	8				13
Tundra Swan		97*	3*	1*								cw	1			17					
Wood Duck		15	5	14		1				3			2	2	2	28	15 hc	12 hc	1		
Gadwall		34	10	26		12	55	8	1		42 hc	65	60	45	72 hc	138	101	203 hc	20		
American Wigeon		47		5		1	cw				24	18	2			4	67 hc	36	5		
American Black Duck		37	5	10	3	4	13		1		14	22	31	93	3	99	72	12	16		
Mallard	160 hc	2449	1754	1501	211	929	2196	2	227	215	2091	1950	2685	5599	436	1604	73059 hc	2400	5586	9	
Mallard X Wood Duck																					
Blue-winged Teal													1* ed								
Northern Shoveler		266	2								14	64	33 hc		103 hc	7	224	133 hc	13		
Northern Pintail		14		4		2	6				cw	10 hc	1	3		2	2066 hc rn	25	2		
Green-winged Teal		288		1					4		1	71 hc	3	1	5		229 hc	40	6		
Canvasback		**1051 HC**	19	2	1						8 hc	1	2		22	16	264 hc	2	4		
Redhead		40		19	2	1									2	6	14 hc	1			
Ring-necked Duck		96	8	27	1		9				73 hc	80 hc	23	2	136 hc	156	117	16			
Greater Scaup		3*										2	6					cw			
Lesser Scaup		881	1	102	2	3	8				3	165 hc	42		294	30	193 hc	14	24	1 hc	
Black Scoter												**1*ed nc**									5
Oldsquaw																		2			34
Bufflehead		393	17	26			4 hc		1	5	44 hc	218 hc	43 hc	cw	86 hc	2	16	22			
Common Goldeneye		1	11	272	40	44			2		4	150	372	60	641 hc	35	212 hc	230	5	5 nc hc	
Hooded Merganser		14		19			4				11 hc	30	115 hc	1	10	11	109	150			
Common Merganser		30	64	9	12	462					7	6	29	2635 hc	951	1549	4	35	41		
Red-breasted Merganser						2*				7		1		12 hc		16	7 hc	1	2		
Ruddy Duck		212		5		2					63 hc	**900 hc**	77 hc		79 hc	84	111 hc	43		1 nc hc	
duck sp	2						13														
Osprey				1* ud																	1
Bald Eagle	11	69	113	75	57	131	**2 hc**					4		153 hc	43 hc	151 hc	70		86	1	
adults	9	29	66	48	31	65	1					3		77	28	79	35		55	1	
immatures	2	24	36	21	21	61	1					1		49	15	72	35		31		
unknown		16	11	6	5	5								27							
Northern Harrier	1	1			1	2	4		4	6	2	2	2	4	cw	18 hc	7	2	23	8 hc	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	cw	2		1		3	cw	1	cw				1	4	2	3	1	1	1	1 nc hc	
Cooper's Hawk		1		2	1	4	3	2	2		2	3	3	2	5	1	3	4 hc		2	
Northern Goshawk	cw																		1* ed		2
Red-shouldered Hawk	2						1										1				
Red-tailed Hawk	90	50	28	62	40	49	29	27	31	14	32	25	16	63	80 hc	80 hc	55	53 hc	42	36 hc	
Rough-legged Hawk	18	3	1		3	4	1		1	1	1	1	1	6	3	10		1			
Golden Eagle											e				1 imm.				1 ad		
American Kestrel	29	14	23	46	17	31	21	23	26	26	16	30	18	54	34	19	20 hc	38 hc	25	31 hc	
Merlin							1* ed														
hawk sp																					
Ring-necked Pheasant	3		20	2	2	11	2	3	18	11	10	27	12		cw	21		2		2	287
Wild Turkey	52	30	96	7	8	90	1	2	1					40 hc	cw		36			17 hc	
Northern Bobwhite			3	1	11	8						1	4		2	1	48	7	1		
American Coot		22	300	49			1				180	275 hc	32	2	88 hc	68	866 hc	66			
Killdeer		17		7		1			8		7	190 hc	134 hc	6	9	5	6	82	2	3	
Common Snipe	1	2	1	2			1		6			8 hc	5	2		16	11 hc		1	8 hc	
American Woodcock	1 nd dd																				
Bonaparte's Gull		2*										200	200 hc		4		46 hc	200			
Ring-billed Gull		1190	246	4745	13	561	67	100	2		79 hc	2500	10000 hc	4637 hc	15209 hc	2276	10003 hc	2000	265		
Herring Gull		45	33	598	9	40		1	cw	200		6	100 hc	55	623	47	16	9	4		
Thayer's Gull				1*													1				
Lesser Black-backed Gull																		cw			
Rock Dove	111	387	80	2197	349	1044	73	50	360	97	636	39	225	32	718	37	46	555	75	15	
Mourning Dove	78	46	76	739	100	321	252	49	168	250	106	130	92	224	303	88	25	1117 hc	14	398 hc	
Common Ground-Dove																	**1* ed nc**				1
Eastern Screech-Owl	cw	2	2	4	6	9	18	1	4	3	cw	1	1	2	2	1	2	11	1	2 hc	
Great Horned Owl	4	4	7	14	4	6	7	**3**	8	5	11 hc	9	6	2	3	1	8	10	3	2	
Snowy Owl	cw																				
Barred Owl	1	1	2	17	2	6	8	2	3		3	5	1	1	3	3	6	6	5	1	

Illinois '98 Christmas Bird Count • North/Central Counts

	Northern						*Central*													
SPECIES	SCHA	CL IA	PC IA	DA IA	ANDA	MU IA	MERV	FGPR	CHAM	HMWD	BLOM	CLLK	DECA	CHIL	PEOR	CHAU	CRLK	SPFD	MERE	BUSH	TOTALS
Long-eared Owl							2														19
Short-eared Owl		1					1												4		
Northern Saw-whet Owl							1		cw												3
Rufous Hummingbird															1* ph rr						**1**
Belted Kingfisher	3	2	1	10		3	11	4	4	4	2	4	4	4	7	7	5	8		2 hc	
Red-headed Woodpecker			2	10	1	2	41	17	4		10 hc	18	1	3	3		9	17	2	41 hc	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	34	30	28	109	30	57	90	66	44	24	37 hc	58 hc	18	82	70 hc	83	79	150 hc	75	47 hc	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				4			1		3	2	2		cw	2		1	1	9	1		
Downy Woodpecker	31	38	52	190	39	88	114	68	61	43	45	78	51	104	112 hc	93	72	167	50	68 hc	
Hairy Woodpecker	8	7	12	38	2	35	25	8	4	4	8	13	2	12	13	18	19	21	15	3	
Northern Flicker	1	5	5	12	12	20	28	6	18	6	9	20	18	13	20	2	57	74	13	15 hc	
Pileated Woodpecker		1		4	2	2	22	17	4				2	1	2	13 hc	14	10	7	1 nc hc	
Loggerhead Shrike				1*ud																	
Northern Shrike	1		1		1		2* ed hc							cw					1* ed	4* hc	40
shrike sp					1									1* sp							2 sp.
Blue Jay	120	57	56	113	50	95	295	212	155	55	102	308 hc	131	82	151	255	96	396 hc	71	232	
American Crow	471	408	64	3174	109	556	267,000	11336	306	224	2102	500	540	300	528	550	345	3335	575	299 hc	
Horned Lark	62	54	50	21	119	175	103	20	58	200	110	400	11	60	40	93	40	41	99	299 hc	
Carolina Chickadee							152	91	22												
Black-capped Chickadee	47	111	117	423	119	210			3	43	127	148	129	380	311	99	125	394 hc	93	95 hc	
Tufted Titmouse	17	14	20	62	26	74	150	102	17	5	40	67	44	96	109	68	49	189	49	49 hc	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	1	3	11	4	1		4	9	5	11	4	8	2	7	16	9	42 hc	40	2	
White-breasted Nuthatch	32	44	32	181	46	77	141 hc	83	23	19	44	64	17	98	108 hc	63	78	137 hc	73	55 hc	
Brown Creeper	1	8	8	42	3	10	12	10	13	10	15	9	2	10	8	3	11	27	16	2	
Carolina Wren		2	1	6		3	32	4	20	2	6	12	12	4	6	10	24	59	22		
Winter Wren		3	1	3			3		1		1	3	2	1				4	1		
Golden-crowned Kinglet		8	4	6	2	4		4	2	3	cw	7	1	2		37	15	23	21		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet											1 nc			2				2	1		
Eastern Bluebird	11	7			7	7	65 hc	9			1		3	19	6	6	18	15	35	20 hc	
Hermit Thrush									cw		1 nc	1		1		1			1		
American Robin	1	3		2		16	26	1	183		cw	9	5	25	15	6	2	134	1		
Northern Mockingbird	1								1		1		1	1		3		9	1	2	
Brown Thrasher									2									cw			
European Starling	1183	783	687	4041	418	2873	1480	2757	13500	750	2688	3165	3300	3452	3506	606	849	9322	730	1745	
Cedar Waxwing	100	60		17	24	60	89	6	11	4	30	120 hc	205 hc	262	cw	72	105 hc	154	46	8	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	cw								2		2	3	2	1				5			
Eastern Towhee							2		1		1	1									
American Tree Sparrow	468	137	218	413	578	686	354	338	295	108	436	475	280	134	95	524	532	233	989	623 hc	
Field Sparrow							1				*		1			3	15 hc	14	25	1	
Savannah Sparrow									cw			4 hc				3 hc	5 hc	3	1		
Le Conte's Sparrow																			1* ed		
Fox Sparrow				1	1		3	2	5	1		9 hc	1	4 hc		1	8	16	4		
Song Sparrow	20	34	6	154	19	39	125	39	99	12	37	115	98	40	80	125	112	129	226	75 hc	
Lincoln's Sparrow	2 ud			2* ud	1*		1* gd		cw? dd												
Swamp Sparrow		4	12	26	1	23	48	6	5		3	18	49	9	7	216	17	7	77	7 hc	
White-throated Sparrow	2	2	8	32	13	17	88 hc	18	50		8	17	44	25	24	16	15	143	13	1	
White-crowned Sparrow	1			2	1	3	cw		7			2	36	1	12	18	16	16	178	18 hc	
Harris's Sparrow																	**2 hc**		**1* ed**		
Dark-eyed Junco	1177	303	334	1676	456	1051	534	643	379	111	210	470	330	369	752	937	568	760	425	769 hc	
Lapland Longspur			23	2	8	2	65	50	cw		cw	170				125		1		37	
Snow Bunting		3	82	5	3	30				2		1									489
Northern Cardinal	119	100	117	567	95	257	137	216	295	60	177	180	174	201	268	193	232	481 hc	151	229 hc	
Red-winged Blackbird	cw	1		102		97	59	10	202	2	53 hc	90	2	43	5472 hc	646	245	202	62	4	
Eastern Meadowlark												4				15	4	4		20 hc	
meadowlark sp.			1																		
Yellow-headed Blackbird															1* ed						1
Rusty Blackbird	4			2		7	120 hc					50			203		200	100	11		
Common Grackle		1	1	6		19	82 hc	26	82	27	1	325	36	3	1006 hc	29	151	1600		1	
Brown-headed Cowbird		2	68	96	1	1320	86 hc		76	19	5	110	1	78	502 hc	3	8	104		2	
blackbird sp.							150 hc														
Purple Finch	25	20	10	17	6	23	21	22	34	38		6	1		1	17	4	6	6		
House Finch	38	31	59	238	22	292	66	186	88	27	39	47 hc	69	43	118	8	7	92	7	70 hc	
Red Crossbill																12		cw	[15 - cw]		12
White-winged Crossbill											**17 ps**							18 hc			54
Common Redpoll												1			31						
Pine Siskin	cw			12	8			3	2	4		**250 hc rn**				1					
American Goldfinch	232	111	86	233	56	244	302	95	100	71	39	140	67	205	208	154	609	252 hc	36	65	
Evening Grosbeak									4 ps												4
House Sparrow	669	290	528	3237	441	1820	679	1087	1168	472	913	1150	860	1101	1324	504	762	980	371	1632 hc	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow					22	76			1*							224	669	125	476	97	
Total Species	**47**	**78**	**64**	**84**	**62**	**71**	**77**	**53**	**61**	**48**	**69**	**90**	**82**	**75**	**74**	**91**	**89**	**94 hc**	**80**	**57 hc**	
Total Individuals	**5447**	**12537**	**6008**	**27607**	**3961**	**14449**	**278053**	**17979**	**19147**	**3410**	**14800**	**16586**	**21656**	**22669 hc**	**39544**	**20720**	**94900**	**29185**	**11689**	**7883**	

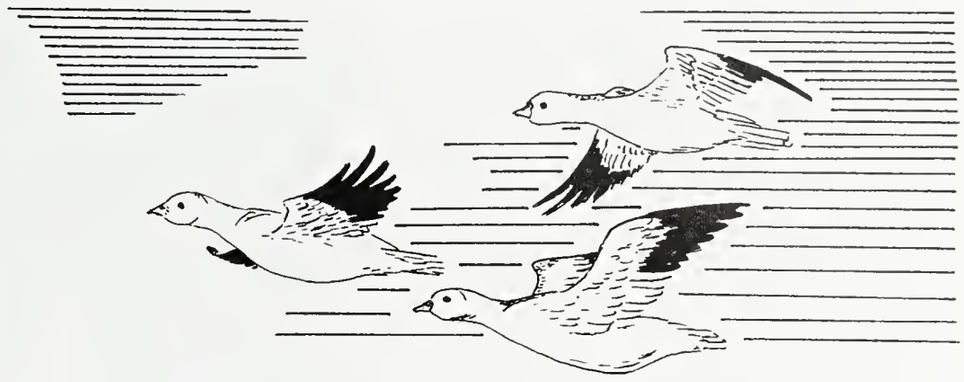
Illinois '98 Christmas Bird Count • Central/South Counts

	Central			*South*														
Species	RUSH	WMER	QUIN	LINC	NEWT	BIRD	BALK	RDLK	JACK	CROR	CYCR	CALK	UNION	HSLK	MRLK	COLL	WRBV	PEMR	TOTALS
Common Loon								7				1						1	23
Pied-billed Grebe					73	10	40	32	14	19	1	2	4		1	20		2	397
Horned Grebe					3	2	18	11				1							61
American White Pelican								**1**		**1* ph**								**353 rn**	377
Double-crested Cormorant			4		2		2	**5267 RN HC**		482	3 hc	96 hc		1		111		214	6345
Great Blue Heron	1	5	20	5	22	9	35	90	34	169	27	132	87	188 hc	34	9	14	83	1768
Great Egret														1* gd		cw			3
Black-crowned Night-Heron																6			22
Black Vulture									2		56			25 hc	10		20		113
Turkey Vulture				80		3			13		53		2	15	19		24		210
Greater White-fronted Goose					13		70	305 hc			29	50	900 hc	675 hc	16				2181
Snow Goose				1	16	1	2470	20043 hc	875	2	2861	31513	230	7000		50	20	8677	74121
Ross's Goose								3				2 hc		2				**20* HC**	27
Canada Goose	12	220	664	262	675	183	755	3520	1455	4200	1570	479	25000	30000	217	390	13	2144	253416
Mute Swan					1											2			191
Tundra Swan													1			1			126
Wood Duck		3	2					2	2	8	147 hc	46 hc	91	83	13	10		6	542
Gadwall		2			90	8	193	37	5	93	2828	200 hc	118	304 hc	29	466		1621	7845
American Wigeon					5		47	26		11	2300	46	93	310 hc	11			38	3312
American Black Duck					172	1	2	169		36	32	33	56	88	4	cw		12	1778
Mallard		80	3128	21	7794	32	606	12522 hc	307	14525	25970	56421 hc	21000	9000	194	447	4	18521	381486
Blue-winged Teal				1? nd dd							1				2* ed	2*ed			7
Northern Shoveler				18	•4	8	8	33		97	**20120 RN HC**	145	59	110	8	34	15	1177	22867
Northern Pintail			3		33		2	1	10	8	1874	78	83	9				229	4508
Green-winged Teal					2	12	10	50		20	1096	53	67	91		31		38	2216
Canvasback			5 hc		141	cw		3	11	1	136 hc	232	10	70	1	cw		329	2363
Redhead					3				10		17	10					2		156
Ring-necked Duck			7		3	4	345	36	9	108	2033	65	200	37	12	12		1024	5332
Greater Scaup						9													827
Lesser Scaup			23		52	43	45	71		12	377	172 hc	51	25	3	42	12	107	5024
scaup sp.						2	1												782
[Surf Scoter]												cw							[1-cw]
Bufflehead			20	16	101	34	12	30	7	118	19 hc	36			4	16		63	1567
Common Goldeneye		20			108	4	23	55	1	2	10 hc	787			2	44		138	8575
Hooded Merganser					128	12	12	23	2	**628 RN HC**	63 hc	258 hc	35	7	14	38		45	2095
Common Merganser		219			17		2			2		172	1	3	1			10	14202
Red-breasted Merganser					1	cw		10		7		60 hc				cw			741
merganser sp.						1													1
Ruddy Duck					365	43		8	6	36		26	39		5	250		**1755 RN HC**	4229
duck sp.						12	474			2000									2714
Bald Eagle		73	35				3	4	1	8	11 hc	8 hc	39	33	3	1	2	64	1388
adults		25	25				1		1	5	5	3	20	18		1	2	34	738
immatures		29	10				1			2	6	5	19	11				27	546
unknown		19					1	4		1				4				3	104
Northern Harrier		6	2	3	44	8	8	7	2	1	56	13	32	23	2	1	13	7	381
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1		1	2	1	9 hc	4	2	8 hc	4	7	6	1	1			117
Cooper's Hawk		1	1	2	3	2	1	1	2		5 hc	7 hc	4	3	3	5		2	161
accipiter sp						3		1									2		13
Red-shouldered Hawk						1	2	3	14	4	19 hc		10	9	10	cw	3	1	86
Red-tailed Hawk	5	40	45	20	24	38	63	60	48	18	86	94 hc	69	55	32	38	25	100	2960
Rough-legged Hawk		4	3		1						2	4 hc	1	1			1	1	142
Golden Eagle													1 imm						3
American Kestrel	5	4	47 hc	34	30	45	47	36	40	12	117	53 hc	79 hc	41	33	51	25	33	1661
Merlin														1*gd					4
Peregrine Falcon																cw			
hawk (buteo) sp.						3											1		8
Greater Prairie-Chicken					86														86
Wild Turkey	16	22	15		6	8	13		10		6		18	1	20		16	58	805
Northern Bobwhite	2	21	4	2	1	65	27	5	30		18	4	37	1	43	cw	15		377
American Coot			10		235	189	59	53	1096	68	103	7	18	3	2	510	2	59	7897
Sandhill Crane								7 hc ed						1* ed nc					2926
Killdeer		6	7		18	19	4	42	7	9	95	167 hc	54	38	15	3	5	109	1088
Greater Yellowlegs								**4*hc ed**											4
Lesser Yellowlegs																		**1* qd**	1
Least Sandpiper							**1***							**8* gd**	6* gd	**cw**		**34* ed**	49
Common Snipe		25	2	1			7	1			11	8	14	9	3			**67 HC**	243
American Woodcock											1* hc				1				3
Bonaparte's Gull					31	cw	219	446		52	54			3 hc	11	110			1624
Ring-billed Gull		74	453	8	406	44	367	587	246	745	19	8816	300	168	592	8424	19	689	87741
Herring Gull		2	33					99 hc				152			4	35	6	9	8195
Thayer's Gull																1			17
Lesser Black-backed Gull								1				cw				1			8
gull sp						1	11												387
Rock Dove	10	309	32	415	27	86	52	25	163	10	20	91	56	40	516	245	23	18	19724
Eurasian Collared-Dove					6* ph						6* hc ps	5* hc gd							17
Mourning Dove	8	161	48	140	156	699	98	134	204	127	316	240	163	448	130	103	149	29	13649
Eastern Screech-Owl		5			1	1		7	15		3	4	16	4			14		236

Illinois '98 Christmas Bird Count • Central/South Counts

	Central			South														
Species	RUSH	WMER	QUIN	LINC	NEWT	BIRD	BALK	RDLK	JACK	CROR	CYCR	CALK	UNION	HSLK	MRLK	COLL	WRBV	PEMR	TOTALS
Great Horned Owl			6	1	2	4	12	8	19	4	4	11	11	5	3	1	1	4	361
Barred Owl		4	2		2	5	7	4	9	1	15	4	3	7	8	2		3	188
Short-eared Owl					41 HC		7	4			25 hc	20 hc	1	1					111
Belted Kingfisher		1	8	2	3		5		12	4	9		9	5	5	3	4	2	262
Red-headed Woodpecker	20		23	23	19	31	30	22	178	4	607	29 hc	212	385 hc	23	12	18	173	2008
Red-bellied Woodpecker	12	50	70	43	43	53	50	37	76	65	159	78 hc	208	172	79	45	61	176	3571
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3			1	1		1	1	3	1	33 hc		36	16	6	1	8	4	154
Downy Woodpecker	22	61	59	28	38	52	43	33	46	57	135	96 hc	256	194	46	34	64	130	5006
Hairy Woodpecker		17	6	7	10	12	16	10	18	6	39	14	38	30	14	4	6	29	955
Northern Flicker	3	4	12	27	19	16	27	24	61	56	387 RN HC	41 hc	182	163	58	17	30	81	1705
Pileated Woodpecker	1	4	7	6	2	3	3	1	24	9	80	9 hc	104	42	13	3	28	39	482
Eastern Phoebe									3		3 hc		4	5 hc	1		1		18
Loggerhead Shrike		1*	1		18	7	3	1	1	1	11	7	5	4	7		4		73
Blue Jay	33	66	208	206	168	350	81	254	200	255	472	249	328	169	118	63	290	240	8008
American Crow	24	256	164	220	51	177	95	151	113	189	135	284	213	79	79	605	220	365	304895
Horned Lark	17	281	32	5	417	326	80		27		48	197	200	350	16	12	5	32	5467
Carolina Chickadee				48	78	181	123	118	279	118	359	140	364	263	147	91	115	13	2689
Black-capped Chickadee	42	101	67															100	9040
Tufted Titmouse	26	20	48	53	73	138	64	53	157	44	256	62	254	333	123	46	67	106	3457
Red-breasted Nuthatch			3	3	1		4	16	22	4	13 hc	2	67	16	11		8	2	598
White-breasted Nuthatch	29	47	28	14	36	44	20	13	71	15	166 hc	43 hc	198	85	32	10	48	93	3548
Brown Creeper	1	2	3		2	1	12	14	5	2	82 hc	11	28	53	9	2		7	817
Carolina Wren		1	5	3	10	19	10	34	86	51	230	36	216	153	86	14	63	19	1277
House Wren													3 hc	3					6
Winter Wren								1	2	1	53 RN HC		21	31	5		4		157
[Sedge Wren - cw]												cw							cw
Golden-crowned Kinglet			3		2	1	8	79	37	23	229 HC	45	162	132 hc	51	5	10	14	1004
Ruby-crowned Kinglet							3	1	1	3	22		42	27	7		4	2	118
Eastern Bluebird	2	3	20	7	16	44	20	22	83	39	162	17	202	128	43	15	83	80	1296
Hermit Thrush		1							4		14		23	11	4		10		84
American Robin		28	190	3	3	99	43	289 hc	415	522	4173	85	2200 hc	350	111	125	191	14	16434
Northern Mockingbird					3	15	4	8	22	10	26	4	5	13	33	33	10	5	212
Brown Thrasher					1		1	1	3	3	11 hc	1	5	10	3		4	1	46
European Starling	23	2975	1404	1906	3479	2475	1988	12477	1655	964	48317 hc	5346 hc	2000	3000	2739	3512	548	2941	226690
American Pipit					2						3* hc	2* hc gd	33* hc	1					56
Cedar Waxwing		27		31		253	78	416 hc	26	161	358 hc	151	96	267	7	14	168	151	5138
Yellow-rumped Warbler									58	11	282 hc	1	253	241 hc	11	2	135 hc	5	1104
Pine Warbler							1* ed				1* ed hc		1* ed		2* gd				5
Common Yellowthroat													1* gd						1
Eastern Towhee				1	10	10	2	22 hc	14	26	57 hc	1	12	33	26		48		268
American Tree Sparrow	12	552	98	14	348	82	48	107	19	1	171	476	147	28	13	20	7	134	19970
Field Sparrow		1*		cw	3	14	1	53	35	33	105	22	62	57	94	2	38	12	611
Vesper Sparrow											1* hc rnd								1
Savannah Sparrow					47		26	6	3	1	26	13	24	37			3	2	217
Le Conte's Sparrow							1	11			15 hc	4	6		1				41
Fox Sparrow			1		4	2	2	1	3	2	29	21 hc	8	32	3	2	13	3	260
Song Sparrow	4	33	21	18	131	48	82	168	135	43	715 hc	933 hc	279	249	160	55	104	84	5736
Lincoln's Sparrow								1*	2*md		1								11
Swamp Sparrow		2	10	2	1	1	11	110	24	2	347	260	183	217	94	cw	7	41	2189
White-throated Sparrow		2	5	6	28	68	50	199	253	88	553	168	562	1100	267	54	133	198	4783
White-crowned Sparrow	5		3	2	84	43	37	15	75	12	228	347 hc	171	55	49	7	11	174	1763
Harris's Sparrow														1* ed				1*	5
Dark-eyed Junco	93	560	540	387	384	438	164	256	268	434	587	340	350	450	261	181	388	382	31512
Lapland Longspur		134			906	100	2	2			1	856 hc	41	480					5174
Smith's Longspur					3*														3
Northern Cardinal	64	135	134	137	162	390	172	160	237	300	460	383	372	516	310	95	227	358	12767
Red-winged Blackbird			12		36	50	689	304144	571	1013	49246 hc	315	2200	3800	13882	4348	1078	5199	401720
Eastern Meadowlark				15	202	92	6	26	31	239	289	172	111	180	97		72		1601
meadowlark sp						1										cw			4 sp.
Rusty Blackbird							20	415	1		743	4	2100 hc	400	15	1		231	4635
blackbird sp.						4	43745			1770					1800	992	5290	12516	141351
Common Grackle		12	11	3		342	8953	330002	376	1786	59339	275	1600	35000	2354	820	352	864433	1333081
Brown-headed Cowbird	1		11	6	24	76	53	5001	184	61	13342 hc	967 hc	117	2450	43	125	30	695	28389
Purple Finch	4	14	4	2					17	9	18	4	4	3	4		66	16	506
House Finch	40	13	187	56	7	123	32		60	47	17	191	128	13	126	98	1	19	5808
Common Redpoll			2																44
Pine Siskin			1												2				808
American Goldfinch	146	79	101	137	138	162	205	51	97	120	286	1052	228	340	200	161	102	179	27438
House Sparrow	204	501	477	902	847	772	141	85	242	33	91	1347	250	300	202	224	33	515	44333
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	53	105	55 hc													42		124	2069
Total species	34	57	67	53	89	73	88	95	85	83	102 hc	95	98	100 hc	94	76	74	90	
Total individuals	943	7395	8656	5354	18805	8794	63436	698814	11008	32284	246111	115983	65984	101425	24018	22408	10656	928023	

Field Notes



Drawing of *Snow Geese by Denis Kania.*

The 1999-2000 Winter Season

by Kelly J. McKay

Due to one of the mildest winters on record, observers reported a remarkable total of 181 species in Illinois during the 1999-2000 winter, possibly the largest number of avian species identified during any Illinois winter season. In addition, Illinois experienced one of, if not the largest, Northern Shrike invasions.

During most of the season, the entire state experienced above normal temperatures. Brief periods of seasonal cold occurred in December and January; the rest of the winter was one of the warmest in Illinois history. Consequently, most of the rivers and lakes here had greatly reduced ice cover nearly all winter. For example, the Mississippi River maintained significant ice cover only during the middle of January.

Generally, precipitation seemed to be somewhat normal. For the most part, precipitation occurred as rain in the southern half of the state and snow in the northern reaches. However, due to the mild temperatures, snow cover resulting from winter storms rarely persisted. Illinois experienced two or three winter storms that produced 6 or more inches of snow. The major winter storm occurred 18 February 2000. This storm dropped 10-12 inches of snow across northern Illinois. However, at or near-record high temperatures following the storm eliminated the snow cover within a few days.

Several species of fall migrants lingered well into the early winter, while many spring migrants returned earlier than usual. Most of the typical wintering community was present along with several uncommon and accidental species. As a result, observers reported a remarkable total of 181 species during the 1999-2000 winter. This was possibly the largest number of avian species identified during an Illinois winter season.

This community included **1 new state record, Scott's Oriole**, (see separate article in this issue for details) and 9 extraordinary species, which required review by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC) before they could be accepted (Pacific Loon, Pomarine Jaeger, California Gull, Western Gull, Barn Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, Bohemian Waxwing, **Great-tailed Grackle**, and **Hoary Redpoll**). Additionally, many other species requiring IORC documentation were identified within Illinois during the 1999-2000 winter. Some of the more interesting species included: Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Harlequin Duck, Surf, White-winged, and Black Scoters, Osprey, Swainson's Hawk, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted and Least Sandpipers, Dunlin, Franklin's and Little Gulls, Black- legged Kittiwake, Caspian Tern, Sedge Wren, American Pipit, Nashville Warbler, American Redstart, Spotted Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Smith's Longspur, Indigo Bunting, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Also, two very interesting exotics (Hooded Crow and European Goldfinch) were encountered in the Chicago area.

The winter of 1999-2000 produced an incredibly diverse avian community within Illinois. The waterbird group was well represented within this community. Three species of loons and 4 grebes were identified, including the Pacific Loon at Lake Shelbyville and two Red-throated Loons (Jackson Park and Rend Lake). A relatively large number of Common Loons, Pied-billed Grebes, and Horned Grebes were scattered across Illinois, while three Red-necked and two Eared Grebes were encountered. Impressive numbers of American White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants were detected throughout Illinois, especially in central and southern locations. Three species of herons were identified, including a large number of wintering Great Blue Herons and three Great Egrets. Black-crowned Night-Herons were observed at Horseshoe Lake in the south and Jackson Park in the north. Both vulture species were observed, however most of the Turkey Vultures were early spring migrants and only three Black Vultures were reported.

Waterfowl to Raptors

Waterfowl diversity was good, with 4 species of geese, 3 swans, 9 "puddle ducks," and 16 species of "diving ducks." No statewide aerial waterfowl survey data were reported this winter. Nevertheless, large concentrations of Canada and Snow Geese were located at their normal southern and central wintering locales, along with a small number of Ross's Geese. The Greater White-fronted Goose continues to winter throughout Illinois in increasing numbers. Mute and Tundra Swan flocks, as well as scattered individuals, were located primarily in the north, while only five Trumpeter Swans were reported within the state. For the most part, duck species occurred in relatively large numbers throughout the winter. The lack of statewide aerial waterfowl survey data certainly influenced the total number of birds reported. The greatest concentrations tended to occur in central and southern locations. However, "puddlers" seemed to be more abundant in the north while common "divers" like the Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser were less abundant, particularly in the north.

American Widgeon. Washington Park, Sangamon County. 6 January 2000. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

The diurnal raptor diversity encountered (14 species) was good. Raptor highlights include the Osprey in the Quad Cities and the Swainson's Hawk, present in Jersey County all December. The mild winter resulted in fewer Bald Eagles wintering in the state. Nevertheless, 460 were reported in the northwest corner of the state on 12 and 13 January. The Illinois River seemed to maintain a somewhat larger population this winter. Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, and Rough-legged Hawks were all present in good numbers and were widespread throughout the state during this past winter. Especially noteworthy were the 44 and 30 Northern Harriers at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area on December 21 and February 16, respectively. A group of 14 Harriers was also observed at Hoffman Estates in the middle of January. This past winter was again very poor for Northern Goshawks, with only three being reported. A small population, consisting of several Peregrine Falcons, appear to be permanent residents in the Chicago area. As in the past, Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels were probably substantially under-reported across Illinois.

Four species of upland gamebirds were reported this past winter. Their "spotty" distribution was probably related to the availability of quality habitat. However, the overall abundance seemed to be considerably reduced. The Ring-necked Pheasant was not reported from southern Illinois at all and Northern Bobwhite numbers were very low throughout the state. Most notable among the gamebirds were the 86 and 67 Greater Prairie-Chickens reported at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area on 21 and 17 December respectively. Once again, no one reported Gray Partridge in Illinois. The number of American Coots reported was less this past winter, however that was undoubtedly due to the lack of aerial waterfowl survey data. The number of Sandhill Cranes encountered during the early winter period, especially in northeast Illinois along Lake Michigan, continues to increase. More than 410 and 200 were observed on 18 and 20 December.

Shorebirds

Eight species of shorebirds were recorded. A large number of Killdeer were found statewide, while good numbers of Common Snipe and early returning spring migrant American Woodcocks were found in central and southern locations. Shorebird notables included 30 Least Sandpipers at Horseshoe Lake and 22 in Calhoun County, along with 6 Greater Yellowlegs at Rend Lake. Additionally, 3 Dunlin, 2 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 2 Spotted Sandpipers were reported within the state. A total of 13 species of gulls were identified during this past winter. Gull highlights included a first winter California Gull at Carlyle Lake and one or two adults in Chicago, a second winter Western Gull at Springfield, an adult Franklin's Gull on the Mississippi River in Hancock County and another in Madison County, and an adult Little Gull at Lake Shelbyville. This gull community included a relatively large number of several "typical" wintering species such as the Bonaparte's Gull, Thayer's Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser and Great Black-backed Gulls, Glaucous Gull, as well as 3 Black- legged Kittiwakes. The two dominant wintering species (Ring-billed and Herring Gulls) occurred in fairly normal abundance. Once again, a larger than usual number of Ring-billed Gulls remained farther north. Also, a single immature dark morph Pomarine Jaeger was discovered at Rend Lake from late January through early February, while Newton Lake hosted a single Caspian Tern early in December.

During the 1999-2000 winter, 3 species of doves, 8 owls, the 7 normal woodpecker species, and both shrike species were reported. Once again I suspect the more common species (Mourning and Rock Doves, Eastern Screech, Great Horned, and Barred Owls, and Downy, Hairy, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers), which all seemed to occur in relatively low numbers, were often overlooked and simply not reported. Long-eared and Short-eared Owls were present in fairly normal, scarce numbers. Notable numbers of Short-eared Owls occurred at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area throughout the winter (30- 50), while Carlyle Lake maintained 8-20 of these owls for most of the season. As with last year, it was a poor winter for invading northern owls. Although more Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported this winter, they were still very scarce and widespread mostly in the central and southern portions of the state. Only two Snowy Owls were encountered. Only 2 Barn Owls were reported (one in the Quad Cities and one in Union County).

Flickers and shrikes

Populations of Red-headed and Pileated Woodpeckers, as well as Northern Flickers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, appeared to be reduced during the 1999-2000 winter. Loggerhead Shrikes were relatively widespread and abundant, concentrating in the southern third of the state and Northerns were found, in record numbers, in the northern half of Illinois. (See separate article in this issue for an account of one of the state's biggest invasions of Northern Shrike.) Eastern Phoebes remained very scarce throughout the state, while a single immature male Rufous Hummingbird spent the first few days of December in Urbana. These Field Notes don't reflect those high numbers because the observation weren't reported to the Field Notes editor. Many records were gleaned from IBET, Illinois Birders Exchanging Thoughts, Illinois' birding list serve..

For the most part, permanent residents (corvids, Tufted Titmouse, chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Cardinal, European Starling, House Finch, and House Sparrow) were reported in very low numbers. Red-breasted Nuthatch, however, was relatively abundant statewide. I strongly suspect these species are greatly under-reported during all seasons of the year. The Brown Creeper occurred in somewhat reduced numbers, while the Horned Lark was fairly abundant and widely distributed throughout the state. Overall, 3 wrens, both kinglets, 3 thrushes, 2 mimic thrushes, and 3 warbler species were identified. Carolina and Winter Wrens occurred in somewhat lesser numbers, while a single Sedge Wren was observed at Carlyle Lake on December 19. Numbers seemed to be down slightly for both kinglets. Eastern Bluebird and Hermit Thrush numbers were fairly typical, however American Robin numbers were substantially reduced from last year's abundance. In contrast to the normally scarce Brown Thrashers, Northern Mockingbirds were encountered throughout Illinois in greater than usual numbers. The population of Cedar Waxwings was greater this past winter and a **single Bohemian Waxwing** was observed from 22-25 January in Rochester (Sangamon County). Small groups of American Pipits were encountered in the southern part of the state. Fairly normal numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers were encountered across Illinois, while a single American Redstart was observed in Chicago on December 6 and one Nashville Warbler was sighted in Chicago's Grant Park on December 9.

Sparrows

A good diversity (18 species) of sparrows was recorded. Two Spotted Towhees were identified in the Springfield area and a decent number of Eastern Towhees were reported. The distribution of these towhees was somewhat "clumped," as noted by the 11 birds at Rend Lake on December 18 and 5 on the Horseshoe Lake CBC on December 28. The majority of sparrows occurred in typical or greater populations than usual. The exceptions were the American Tree Sparrow and Savannah Sparrow. The populations of these two species were down in the 1999-2000 winter. The highlight of the sparrow community was the Chipping Sparrow, which was present all February in Orland Park (Cook County). Dark-eyed Juncos were reported in decent numbers, but were probably under-reported. Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were fairly abundant and widespread, especially through the northern half of the state. **Three Smith's Longspurs** were discovered at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area 21 December (representing Illinois first well-documented winter record.) A single Indigo Bunting was present in Boone County from December 22 through January 2. Good diversities of blackbirds (8 species) and finches (9 species) were identified during the 1999-2000 winter. Among the blackbird species (Red-winged, Rusty, and Brewer's Blackbirds, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird), much greater than normal numbers wintered sporadically through the state. Blackbird concentrations were undoubtedly influenced by habitat availability. Highlights within the blackbird community included 300,000 and 15,000 Red-wings at the Rend Lake CBC and La Salle County, respectively. Another blackbird highlight was the state's first record of **Scott's Oriole** (see separate article in this issue.)

Additionally, 800,000 and 250,000 Common Grackles were reported at Calhoun County and the Rend Lake CBC, respectively. Sangchris Lake played host to a single adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird and a **single adult female Great-tailed Grackle** in early February. Large numbers of blackbirds, especially Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles, began returning to Illinois during the latter part of February. The winter finches (Purple Finch, Red and White-winged Crossbills, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskin) were present in considerably greater numbers this year, as Illinois possibly experienced a mild invasion. Nevertheless, only 4 Evening Grosbeaks were reported from Urbana on December 18 and a single male Hoary Redpoll was observed in Skokie (Cook County) for most of February. The Eurasian Tree Sparrow continues to increase in numbers and is expanding its distribution northwards along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

Acknowledgments

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WINTER 1999-2000 FIELD NOTES...

Red-throated Loon
Two reports: JP, 1 Dec (PC); Rend L, 29 Jan (KM, DK, FB).

Common Loon
MC: **19**, Rend L, 29 Jan (KM, DK, FB)—ties winter season high count set Dec 1998; **14**, Clin.L, 12 Dec (RC); 5, Evanston (Cook Co), 4 Dec (EW). **Others**: 4, Carl.L, 4 Dec (DK); Little Swan L (Warren Co), 6 Dec (LH); 2, IBSP, 12 Dec (DJ); 4, L Spfld, 22 Dec (HDB); Chi (Meigs Field), 24-25 Dec (EW, GW).

Pied-billed Grebe
MC: **108**, Sangamon Co, 19 Dec (HDB)—**record winter high count**; **92**, Sangamon Co, 19 Jan (HDB); **75**, Bald.L, 12 Feb (KM); **50**, CrabOr, 19 Feb (KM, FB); 25, HL, 15 Dec (FH); 3, La Salle L, 9 Jan (C&JMc). **Others** (north/central): Rockford, 12 Dec (DTW); 2, QC CBC, 19 Dec (KJM); Montrose, 25 Dec & 8 Jan (AFS, AA, CN); 2, Lincoln P (Cook Co), 1 Jan (EW). Additional data in spring report.

Horned Grebe
MC: **230**, Bald.L, 12 Feb (KM)—**unprecedented winter high count**; **43**, L Spfld, 6 Dec (HDB); 4, JP, 1 Dec (PC); 4, Clin.L, 12 Dec (RC). **Others**: 3, Carl.L, 4 Dec (DK); 3, Chau, 9 Dec (R&SBj); La Salle L, 12 Dec (C&JMc); 2, GrantP, 13 Dec (DFS).

Red-necked Grebe
Three reports: La Salle L, 26 Dec-27 Feb (*C&JMc); Rend L, 29 Jan (KM, DK, FB); Clin.L, 20 Feb (*RC).

Eared Grebe
Two reports: Marine Point (Sangamon Co), 17 Dec (HDB); CrabOr, 19 Feb (FB, KM).

American White Pelican
MC: **350**, Calhoun Co, 18 Dec (WR); **350**, HL, 21 Feb (KM); **220**, Chau, 25 Feb (R&SBj); **100+**, Carl.L, 26 Feb (DK); 50, HL, 25 Feb (FH); 43, SRock SP, 29 Feb (JH); 15, Rochester (Sangamon Co), 22 Feb (VK). **Unprecedented winter season high counts** due to large numbers of late fall and early spring migrants.

Double-crested Cormorant
MC: **1750**, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, RZ)—**record winter high count**; 96, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 52, Chau, 17 Dec (R&SBj); 12, Little Calumet R (Cook Co), 12 Feb (WM); 6, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB). **Others**: 2, IBSP, 12 Dec (DJ); 2, GrantP, 13 Dec (DFS); 2, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 20, HL, 1 Jan (FH); Danville (Vermilion Co), 1 Jan (RC, SB); imm., Wauk, 2 Jan (AFS); 3, Will Co, 9 Jan (DJS); 19, Carl.L, 16 Jan (DK); 2, Sangamon Co, 8-21 Jan (HDB); 5, La Salle L, 6 Feb (C&JMc).

As a printing aid, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

MC	= maximum count(s)	1st/2nd/3rd	= first/second/third-year plumage	NWR	=	National Wildlife Refuge
m.ob.	= many observers	CBC	= Christmas Bird Count	P	=	Park
*	= documented record	Co(s)	= County(ies)	R	=	River
ad.	= adult	FP	= Forest Preserve	SP	=	State Park
imm.	= immature	(F)WA	= (Fish &) Wildlife Area	IORC	=	Illinois Ornithological Records Committee
unk.	= unknown age	L	= Lake			
		L&D	= Lock and Dam			

Anda. CBC = Andalusia CBC (Rock Island, Mercer Cos)
Bald.L = Baldwin L (St. Clair, Randolph Cos)
Bloom. = Bloomington (McLean Co)
Carl.L = Carlyle L (Clinton, Fayette Cos)
Chau = Chautauqua NWR (Mason Co)
Chi = Chicago lakefront and vicinity (Cook Co)
Clin.L = Clinton L (DeWitt Co)
Clinton (Iowa) CBC = Clinton CBC (Whiteside, Carroll Cos; count center at Elk River Junction, Iowa)
CrabOr = Crab Orchard NWR (Williamson Co)
Evgn L = Evergreen L (McLean Co)
Fishhk = Fishhook Wildlife Management Area (Moultrie Co)
GrantP = Chicago's Grant P (Cook Co)
HL = Horseshoe L (Madison Co)
IBSP = Illinois Beach SP (Lake Co)
Ill. R = Illinois R (various counties)
JP = Chicago's Jackson P (Cook Co)
La Salle L = La Salle L (La Salle Co)
LCal = L Calumet and vicinity (Cook Co)
LShel. = L Shelbyville (Moultrie, Shelby Cos)
MArb = Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co)
Mermet L = Mermet L Conservation Area (Massac Co)
MidFk FWA = Middle Fork FWA (Vermilion Co)
Montrose = Montrose Harbor and vicinity, Chicago (Cook Co)
Musc. CBC = Muscatine (Iowa) CBC (Rock Island Co; count center at L&D 16 off Muscatine, Iowa)
MView = Moraine View SP (McLean Co)
Niabi Zoo = Niabi Zoological P (Rock Island Co)
Pecatonica = Pecatonica (Winnebago Co)
Pekin = Pekin and vicinity, including Peoria L&D (Tazewell Co)
Pr.Rdg = Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Jasper Co)
Princeton-Camanche CBC = Princeton-Camanche CBC (Rock Island, Whiteside Cos; count center at Folletts, Iowa)
QC CBC = Quad Cities (Davenport, Iowa) CBC (Rock Island Co)
Rend L = Rend L (Franklin, Jefferson Cos)
Rock Falls CBC = Rock Falls CBC (Whiteside, Lee Cos)
Rockford = Rockford (Winnebago Co)
SandRdg = Sand Ridge State Forest (Mason Co)
Sang.L = Sangchris L SP (Christian, Sangamon Cos)
Shab.L = Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co)
Spfld = Springfield (Sangamon Co)
SRock SP = Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co)
UCCA = Union County Conservation Area (Union Co)
Urbana = Urbana (Champaign Co)
Wauk = Waukegan (Lake Co)

Details on counts, sexes, and/or ages of birds are included where available. No number indicates single birds. This information is followed by the location and date of observation, and (in parentheses) by the observer(s) who made the report. Records other than maximum counts are generally arranged chronologically. In the interest of standardizing citation forms for place names, we have followed the DeLorme (1996) *Illinois Atlas & Gazetteer* (2nd edition) whenever possible. Remarks of special note are **boldfaced**. Exceptional high counts, dates and/or sites of occurrence are **boldfaced and underlined**. Headings for species of extremely unusual occurrence in winter are **CAPITALIZED**, and headings for species requiring IORC review are **CAPITALIZED AND UNDERLINED**.

Great Blue Heron
MC: **132**, Chau, 6 Jan (R&SBj); **83**, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD); **74**, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (KM, DWs); **68**, **Clinton (Iowa) CBC**, 16 Dec (EA, DW); **29**, **La Salle Co**, 1 Jan (DJS). **Others**: 3, JP, 25 Dec (PC); 2, Chi, 8 Jan (AA, CN); 30, Sangamon Co, 30 Jan (HDB); 7, Fox R (Kendall Co), 4 Feb (DFS); 19, Monroe Co, 12 Feb (JZ).

Great Egret
HL, 15 Dec (FH); McKee Marsh (**Du Page Co**), 18 Dec (EW); Des Plaines R (**Cook Co**), 19 Dec (*AFS).

Black-crowned Night-Heron
21, HL, 5 Dec (FH); imm., **JP**, 11 Dec (KC); HL, 9 Jan (FH).

Black Vulture
3, Johnson Co, 29 Jan (KM, FB, DK).

Turkey Vulture
MC: 30, Niabi Zoo, 27 Feb (KJM); 30, Sangamon Co, 29 Feb (HDB); 20, Massac Co, 19 Feb (KM, FB). **Others**: Clinton Co, 11 Jan (KV); 7, Vermilion Co, 26 Feb (JOS).

Greater White-fronted Goose
MC: **600**, Heyworth (McLean Co), 15 Jan (MLR); 350, Farmer City (DeWitt Co), 17 Jan (RC); 350, Carl.L, 5 Feb (DK); 300, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, DK); 220, Union Co CBC (Union Co), 29 Dec (KM, DK); 200, L Spfld, 23 & 27 Jan (HDB); 153, SRock SP, 22 Feb (JH); 44, Johnson Sauk Trail SP (Henry Co), 21 Feb (DJS). **Others**: Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (EA, DW); 7 ad., Virginia (Cass Co), 6 Jan (VK); 50, Sang.L, 10 Feb (VK); Lockport (Will Co), 19 Feb (CA); 20, HL, 20 Feb (FH); 25, Niabi Zoo, 21 Feb (KJM); 97, Chau, 25 Feb (R&SBj). Population explosion continues.

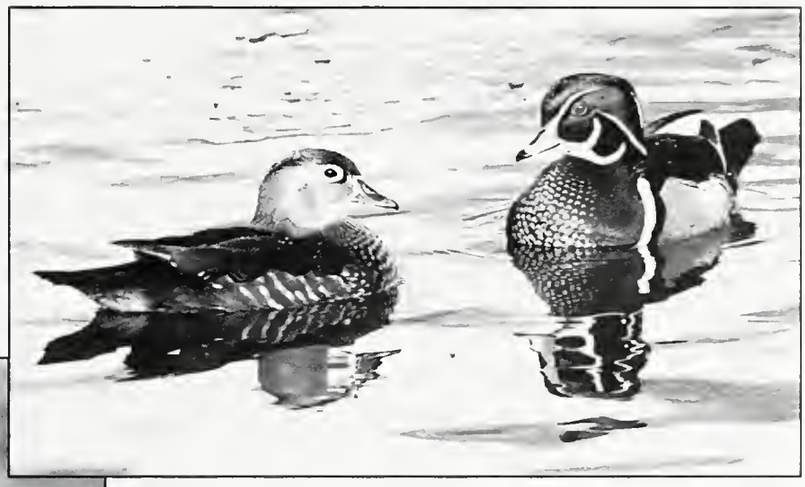
Snow Goose, blue phase. Springfield, Sangamon County. 10 February 2000. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Snow Goose
MC: **75,000**, Carl.L, 5 Feb (DK); **50,000**, Carl.L, 23 Jan (KM); **15,000**, Sang.L, 10 Feb (VK); 6000, Bald.L, 12 Feb (KM); 1005 (606 white, 399 blue morph), Chau, 25 Feb (R&SBj); 500, Savoy (Champaign Co), 23 Jan (RC); 50, Niabi Zoo, 25 Feb (KJM). **Others**: 27, Sangamon Co, 2 Jan (HDB); Rockford, 2-16 Jan (DTW); Ottawa (La Salle Co), 15 Jan (DJS).

Ross's Goose
MC: **17**, Calhoun Co, 18 Dec (WR)—**record winter high count** (cf. 1996 high of 16 birds on the Union Co CBC); 3, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM); 3, Sangamon Co, 10 Feb (HDB). **Others**: Fox R (Kane Co), 19 Dec (DFS); Savoy (Champaign Co), 23 Jan (RC); UCCA, 19 Feb (FB); 2, Carl.L, 20 Feb (DK).

Canada Goose
MC: **25,000**, LShel., 13 Feb (RC); **14,000**, **Lake Co**, 1 Jan (DJ); 9200, UCCA, 12 Jan (KM); 6327, Chau, 10 Feb (R&SBj); 4000, L Spfld, 22 Jan (HDB); 3000, Carl.L, 5 Feb (DK); 2850, Fox R (Kendall Co), 8 Jan (DFS). **Others**: 1160, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (EA, DW); 628, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 1932, JP, 25 Dec (PC); 1000, Vermilion Co, 23 Jan (JOS). "**Richardson's Goose**": **300**, Chau, 17 Jan (RC); 31+, Bloom., 10 Dec (MLR).

Mute Swan
MC: **140+**, Chi (Wolf L), 29-30 Jan (WM, KW); 30, Lake Co, 16 Jan (DJ). **Others**: 10, L Spfld, 25 Dec (HDB); 2, South Elgin (Kane Co), 23 Jan (JM); 10, Channahon (Will Co), 1 Feb (DFS); 12, JP, 22 Feb (KC, PC).



Wood Duck pair. Washington Park, Sangamon County. 6 January 2000. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Tundra Swan
MC: **70**, **Clinton (Iowa) CBC**, 16 Dec (*FL); 23, Chau, 9 Dec (R&SBj); 3; Princeton-Camanche CBC, 17 Dec (*KJM); 3, LShel., 12 Feb (RC). **Others**: imm., Diamond L (Lake Co), 23 Dec (AFS); UCCA, 29 Dec (VK, MD); 2, Ogle Co, 2-15 Jan (DTW); ad., Crystal L, 16 Jan (AFS); Chi (Wolf L), 29 Jan (CA, KW); imm., L Spfld, 11 Feb (HDB).

Wood Duck
MC: **964**, Chau, 17 Dec (R&SBj)—**easy record winter high count** (previous high is 613 birds on the 1985 HL CBC, but there are few other triple-digit winter counts for this species); 65, UCCA, 29 Jan (KM, FB, DK); 46, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 25, HL, 5 Dec (FH); 14, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (EA, DW); 10, Oswego (Kendall Co), 8 Jan (DFS). **Others**: 4, Winnebago Co, 18 Dec (DTW); 5, QC CBC, 19 Dec (KJM); 7, L Spfld, 19 Dec (HDB); 6, Des Plaines (Cook Co), 26 Dec (AA); Vermilion Co, 27 Dec (JOS).

Gadwall
MC: 500, HL, 25 Feb (KM); 300, HL, 5 Dec (FH); 282, Chau, 9 Dec (R&SBj); 200, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 150, Sangamon Co, 4 Jan (HDB); 95, Braidwood (Will Co), 3 Jan (DFS); 80, Shab.L, 10 Dec (DJS). **Others**: 16, Kennekuk Cove P (Vermilion Co), 7 Dec (JOS); 25, Bloom., 10 Dec (MLR); 22, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 25, QC CBC, 19 Dec (KJM); 20, Kankakee R SP (Kankakee Co), 3 Jan (DFS); 42, La Salle L, 9 Jan (C&JMc); 23, Ill. R (Grundy Co), 1 Feb (DFS). Widespread throughout the state.

American Wigeon
MC: 250, Carl.L, 20 Feb (DK); 45, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 35, Sangamon Co, 10 Feb (HDB); 35, HL, 25 Feb (KM); 32, La Salle L, 12 Feb (C&JMc); 27, Sangamon Co, 6 Jan (HDB). **Others**: 15, Shab.L, 10 Dec (DJS); 15, Bloom., 10 Dec (MLR); 2, Oswego (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 4 (2 pairs), JP, 23 Feb (PC); 15, Spfld, 24 Feb (VK).

American Black Duck
MC: **832**, Chau, 9 Dec (R&SBj); **630**, La Salle L, 9 Jan (C&JMc); **500**, Fishhk, 16 Jan (RC); 167, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, RZ); 43, Des Plaines R (Will Co), 13 Feb (DJS). **Others**: 16, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (EA, DW); 7, McKee Marsh (Du Page Co), 18 Dec (EW); 8, QC CBC, 19 Dec (KJM); 33, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 19, Fox R (Kendall Co), 8 Jan (DFS); 11, Rockford, 15 Jan (DTW); 28, Sangamon Co, 19 Jan (HDB).

Mallard
MC: **99,936**, Chau, 17 Feb (R&SBj); **95,551**, Chau, 9 Dec (R&SBj); **75,000**, Carl.L, 5 Feb (DK); **40,000**, Clin.L, 27 Feb (RC); **25,000**, La Salle L, 9 Jan (C&JMc); **25,000**, LShel., 12 Feb (RC); 14,000, Braidwood (Will Co), 3 Jan (DFS).

Blue-winged Teal
2, Spfld, 24 Feb (VK); male, Rochester SP (Sangamon Co), 28 Feb (HDB).

Northern Shoveler
MC: **1864**, Chau, 2 Dec (R&SBj)—**record winter high count** excluding aerial survey data; 300, HL, 19 Jan (KM); 200, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (EA, DW); 150, L Spfld, 17 Dec (HDB); 145, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 30, McKee Marsh (Du Page Co), 18 Dec (EW). **Others** (north/central): 8, Shab.L, 15 Dec (DJS); 2, McGaw P (Lake Co), 17 Dec (DJ); 3, L Petersburg (Menard Co), 13 Jan (VK); 13, JP, 25 Feb (SC).

Northern Pintail
MC: **10,371**, Chau, 17 Feb (R&SBj)—**record winter high count** excluding aerial survey data; **1000**, Fishhk, 16 Jan (RC); **450**, HL, 20 Feb (FH); 185, Sangamon Co, 10 Feb (HDB); 150, Carl.L, 5 Feb (DK); 120, Madison Co, 9 Feb (KM); 9, La Salle L, 12 Feb (C&JMc); 8, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM). **Others** (north): 2, Oswego (Kendall Co), 18 Dec (DJS); Winnebago Co, 20 Jan (DTW).

Green-winged Teal
MC: **4546**, Chau, 2 Dec (R&SBj); **286**, **Clinton (Iowa) CBC**, 16 Dec (EA, DW); 200, HL, 5 Dec (FH); 75, HL, 25 Feb (KM); 67, L Spfld, 10 Feb (HDB); 53, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 4, Pecatonica, 18 Dec (DTW). **Others**: 45, L Spfld, 17 Dec (HDB); 2, JP, 15-25 Dec (PC, m.ob.); female, Oswego (Kendall Co), 8 Jan (DFS); 8, Madison Co, 26 Jan (FH).

Canvasback
MC: **2480**, Chau, 17 Dec (R&SBj); **1051**, **Clinton (Iowa) CBC**, 16 Dec (KJM); 800, Clear L (Mason Co), 25 Feb (R&SBj); 400, Carl.L, 20 Feb (DK); 160, L Spfld, 10 Feb (HDB); 104, HL, 27 Jan (KM); 19, Princeton-Camanche CBC, 17 Dec (RN, AM). **Others**: 2, Lake Co, 1 Jan (DJ); 70, L Spfld, 27 Jan (HDB); 100, Jersey Co, 13 Feb (KM).

Redhead
MC: 90, Sangamon Co, 28 Feb (HDB); 55, HL, 25 Feb (KM); 40, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 14, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 8 Jan (JM); 10, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 10, Sangamon Co, 27 Jan (HDB). **Others**: 5, Wilmette (Cook Co), 26 Dec (EW, JE, MS); 2, Rockford, 15 Jan (DTW); 3 (males), JP, 4-16 Jan (PC, KC); male, Fishhk, 16 Jan (RC); 8, HL, 27 Jan (KM); male, Evgn L, 20 Feb (DB); 5, Johnson Sauk Trail SP (Henry Co), 21 Feb (DJS).

Ring-necked Duck
MC: **1550**, HL, 25 Feb (KM); 485, Chau, 17 Dec (R&SBj); 274 (263 male, 11 female), SandRdg, 17 Feb (R&SBj); 200, Mermet L, 19 Feb (KM, FB); 150, Carl.L, 20 Feb (DK); 88, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 9, Shab.L, 15 Dec (DJS). **Others**: 85, Sangamon Co, 18 Dec (HDB); 40, HL, 25 Jan (FH); 6, Ill. R (Grundy Co), 1 Feb (DFS); 7, Little Calumet R (Cook Co), 12 Feb (WM); 76, Sangamon Co, 14 Feb (HDB); 70, Heyworth (McLean Co), 28 Feb (MLR, CC).

Greater Scaup
MC: 392, Evanston and Wilmette (Cook Co), 26 Dec (JE, EW); 200+, JP, 21 Dec (KC); 40, Carl.L, 20 Feb (DK); 12, Massac Co, 24 Feb (FB); 4, Sangamon Co, 27 Jan (HDB). **Others** (inland): 3, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (*KJM); 8, Carl.L, 15 Jan (DK); female, Heyworth (McLean Co), 15 Jan (MLR); 5, Rend L, 29 Jan (KM, DK, FB); 3, Byron (Ogle Co), 20 Feb (DTW)

Lesser Scaup
MC: **1866**, Chau, 17 Dec (R&SBj); 1100, Clear L (Mason Co), 25 Feb (R&SBj); 631, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 600, Carl.L, 20 Feb (DK); 380, LCal, 14 Jan (DFS). **Others**: 250, Sangamon Co, 18 Dec (HDB); 71, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, RZ); 99, QC CBC, 19 Dec (KJM); 200+, Little Calumet R (Cook Co), 12 Feb (WM); 300, Spfld, 24 Feb (VK); 118, JP, 27 Feb (PC, KC); 40, Heyworth (McLean Co), 28 Feb (MLR, CC).

Harlequin Duck
One report: 2 (female & imm. male), Wauk, 5 Feb (AFS, SH).

Surf Scoter
Two reports: 3, Carl.L, 19 Dec (DK); imm. male, Cook Co, 6 Feb (KW).

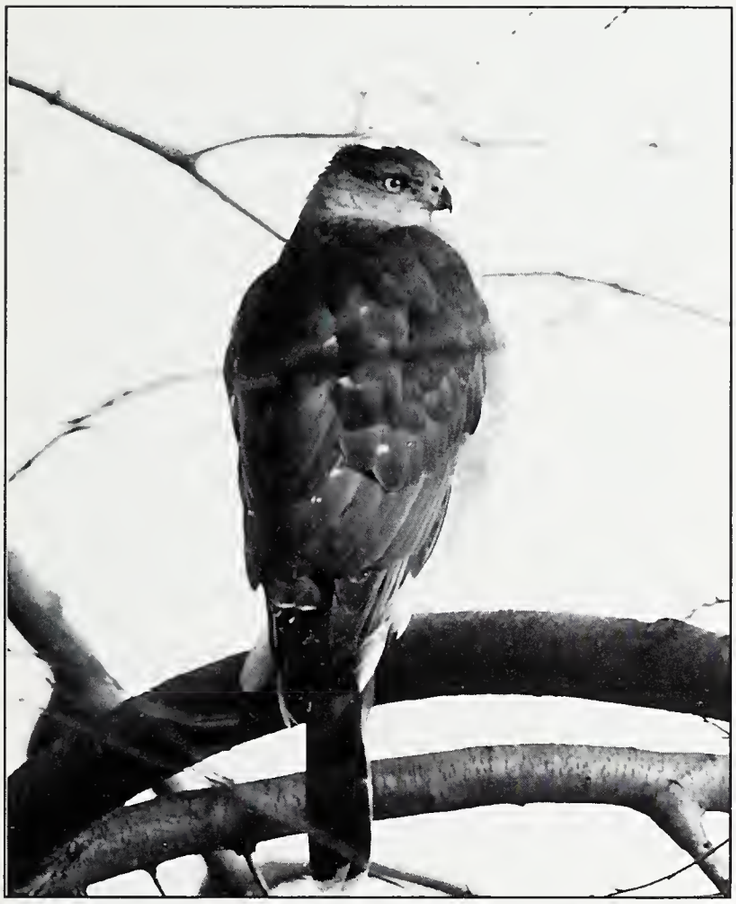
White-winged Scoter
Two reports: ad. male, Smithland L&D (Pope Co), 8 Jan (FB); male, JP, 27 Feb (KC).

Black Scoter
One report: Cook Co, 26 Feb (KW).

Long-tailed Duck, Lake Springfield, Sangamon County. 30 December 1999. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)
2 (male, female), Sangamon Co, 17 Dec-31 Jan (HDB); Dallas City (Henderson Co), 8 Jan (AR, PhR, PR); imm. male, Carl.L, 1-11 Jan (DK); HL, 11 Jan-25 Feb (KM, FH); male, Rend L, 29 Jan (KM, DK, FB); Navy Pier (Cook Co), 8 Feb (KW); male, Montrose, 12 Feb (AA, CN, m.ob.). **Note**: The American Ornithologists' Union officially adopted the name "Long-tailed Duck" for this species in the 42nd Supplement to its *Check-list of North American Birds*. See *Auk* 117.3, issued 19 July 2000.

Bufflehead
MC: **370**, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); **169**, SandRdg, 17 Dec (R&SBj); **138**, Sangamon Co, 17 Dec (HDB); 36, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 23, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, RZ); 22, Lake Co, 6 Jan (DJ). **Others**: 12, JP, all winter (PC); 20, Adams Co, 19 Dec (KV); 5, Wilmington (Will Co), 1 Jan (CA).



Cooper's Hawk. Springfield, Sangamon County. 1 January 2000. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Common Goldeneye
MC: **4000**, La Salle Co, 6 Feb (C&JMc); 2500, Rend L, 29 Jan (KM, FB, DK); 2000, Carl.L, 14 Jan (KM); 400, Sangamon Co, 30 Jan (HDB); 292, Chau, 17 Dec (R&SBj); 247, QC CBC, 19 Dec (KJM). **Others** (north): 50, Rock Falls CBC, 2 Jan (KJM, RLC); 60, LCal, 2 Jan (WM, CH, KW); 200, Ill. R (Grundy Co), 1 Feb (DFS); 100, JP, 2 Feb (KC).

Hooded Merganser
MC: **258**, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); **250**, Rend L, 29 Jan (KM, DK, FB); **146**, Chau, 17 Dec (R&SBj); 110, La Salle L, 12 Dec (C&JMc); 100, Sangamon Co, 16 Dec (HDB); 24, Cook Co, 26 Feb (KW). **Others**: 9 (3 male, 6 female), JP, 15 Dec (PC); 11, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 19, QC CBC, 19 Dec (KJM); 2, Vermilion Co, 27 Dec (JOS); 6, Wauk, 1 Jan (GW); 14, Braidwood (Will Co), 3 Jan (DFS); 24, Spfld, 6 Jan (VK). Wintered widely throughout the state.

Common Merganser
MC: 2800, Starved Rock L&D (La Salle Co), 6 Feb (KM); 2500, Spfld, 23 Jan (KM); 600, HL, 27 Jan (KM); 433, Chau, 3 Feb (R&SBj); 400, Carl.L, 5 Feb (DK); 375, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (KJM). **Others**: 37, Rockford, 18 Dec (DTW); 71, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 195, LCal, 2 Jan (WM, CH, KW); 60, Lake Co, 6 Jan (DJ); 40, Cook Co, 26 Feb (KW).

Red-breasted Merganser
MC: 850, Chi (31st St. Beach), 15 Jan (GW); 255, JP, 6 Feb (KC); 134, Carl.L, 26 Feb (DK); 20, Sangamon Co, 28 Feb (HDB). **Others**: 75, Montrose, 5 Dec (KM); 6, Chau, 17 Dec (R&SBj).

Ruddy Duck
MC: **740**, Chau, 2 Dec (R&SBj); **500**, Swan L (Calhoun Co), 21 Feb (KM); 210, Carl.L, 26 Feb (DK); 200, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 150, Sangamon Co, 13 Dec (HDB); 6, Lake Co, 6 Jan (DJ). **Others**: 50, HL, 5 Dec (FH); 2, Shab.L, 24 Dec (DJS); 60, Sangamon Co, 19 Jan (HDB); 3 (1 male, 2 female), La Salle L, 6 Feb (C&JMc); 15, Heyworth (McLean Co), 28 Feb (MLR, CC).

OSPREY
QC CBC, 19 Dec (*GO).

Bald Eagle
MC: **460** (263 ad., 185 imm., 12 unk.), L&D 13 to L&D 16 (Whiteside, Rock Island Cos), 12-13 Jan (KJM); 117, Ill. R, Pekin to Havana (Tazewell, Mason Cos), 5 Feb (RC et al.); 107 (40 ad., 67 imm.), Ill. R, Havana to Beardstown (Mason, Cass Cos), 8 Jan (HP, RC et al.); 104 (45 ad., 54 imm., 5 unk.), Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (KJM); 101 (28 ad., 73 imm.), Chau, 31 Dec (R&SBj); 13 (7 ad., 6 imm.), Jersey Co, 13 Feb (KM); 11, HL, 30 Jan (FH). **Others**: 64 (45 ad., 19 imm.), Princeton-Camanche CBC, 17 Dec (RN, AM); imm., Chi, 25 Dec (GW); 42 (23 ad., 14 imm., 5 unk.), Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM); 76, L Depue State FWA (Bureau Co), 2 Jan (JH); 8 (5 ad., 3 imm.), Massac and Union Cos, 19 Feb (FB).

Northern Harrier
MC: **44**, Pr.Rdg, 21 Dec (JW, m.ob.); **30**, Pr.Rdg, 16 Feb (JW, EK); **14** (4 male, 10 female/imm.), Hoffman Estates (**Cook Co**), 14 Jan (JM); 13, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 11, Union Co CBC (Union Co), 29 Dec (KM, DK); 10, Jackson Co, 8 Jan (RM); 9, Jim Edgar WA (Sangamon Co), 17 Feb (VK); 8, Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co), 16 Jan (DTW); 4, Sangamon Co, 26 Dec (HDB). **Others**: 3, Princeton-Camanche CBC, 17 Dec (KJM); 3, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (BB); 5, Pratts Wayne Woods FP (Du Page Co), 2 Jan (GW); 5, Libertyville (Lake Co), 7 Jan (DJ); 6, Kendall Co, 8 Jan (DFS); 2, Fairview (Fulton Co), 31 Jan (LH); 2 (male, female), MidFk FWA, 11 Feb (JOS). Widespread throughout the state.

Sharp-shinned Hawk
MC: 4, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, RZ); 4, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK). **Others**: Mason Co, all winter (R&SBj); Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); ad., Marietta (Fulton Co), 18 Dec (LH); 2, Deerfield (Lake Co), 26 Dec (AA, RH, EO); Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); HL, 9 Jan (FH); 2, St. Charles (Kane Co), 11 Jan (JM); female, Athens (Menard Co), 17 Jan (VK); Monticello (Piatt Co), 22 Jan (RC); 2, MArb, 19 Feb (DFS); Jackson Co, 19 Feb (FB). Wintered widely throughout the state.

Cooper's Hawk
MC: 7, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 3, Sangamon Co, 1 & 19 Jan (HDB); 2 (ad.), Massac Co, 1 Dec (FB); 2, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (SF); 2 (imm.), Kankakee R SP (Kankakee Co), 3 Jan (DFS); 2, Buffalo Grove (Lake Co), 19 Jan (DJ). **Others**: Vermilion Co, 8 Dec (JOS); imm., MArb, 13 Dec (AA); Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (EA, DW); Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM); Chau, 31 Dec (R&SBj); ad., 8 Jan, Chi (AA, CN); HL, 9 Jan (FH). Widespread winter resident across the state.

Northern Goshawk
Three reports: imm., JP, 1-7 Dec (GD, SC); Monticello (Piatt Co), 22 Jan (RC); imm., Elburn (Kane Co), 6 Feb (*DD, JD).

Red-shouldered Hawk
MC: 5, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); 2, Mermet L, 29 Jan (KM, DK, FB); 2, Mason Co, 3 Feb (R&SBj). **Others**: Carl.L, 1 Jan (DK); Rock Falls CBC, 2 Jan (KJM, RLC); ad., Cook Co, 6 Jan (CF); SRock SP, 16 & 29 Jan (DJS); McLean Co, 19 Jan (JC); ad., Spfld, 30 Jan (HDB); ad., Sang.L, 3 Feb (HDB, VK); Allerton P (Piatt Co), 27 Feb (RC).

Red-tailed Hawk
MC: 19, Sangamon Co, 31 Dec (HDB); 18, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, RZ); 17, Kendall Co, 1 Jan (DFS). **Others**: 7, St. Clair Co, 5 Jan (TUM); 7, Lee Co, 12 Feb (EW); 9, Chi, 20 Feb (JL). "**Krider's**": Carl.L, 19 Dec- 22 Jan (DK). **Rufous morph**: Franklin Co, 5 Jan-23 Feb (LS). "**Harlan's**": 1-6, Chau, all winter (R&SBj); Pulaski Co, 23 Jan (FB). **Dark morph**: Sang.L, 13 Feb (HDB).

Rough-legged Hawk
MC: 4, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 4, Sangamon Co, 30 Jan (HDB); 4, Pr.Rdg, 2 Feb (JW, EK, DO); 3, Vermilion Co, 31 Dec (RC, SB); 3, Bureau, Henry, Lee Cos, 21 Feb (DJS). **Others**: Clinton (Iowa)

CBC, 16 Dec (EA, DW); 2, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); Deerfield (Lake Co), 26 Dec (AA); 2 (light morph), LCal, 2 Jan (WM, KW); dark morph, Bond Co, 23 Jan (KM); Ogle Co, 29 Jan (DFS); 2, Fulton Co, 1 Feb (LH); 2, Champaign Co, 9 Feb (JOS). Fairly common throughout the state.

Golden Eagle
Three reports: imm., Richardson Wildlife Foundation (Lee Co), all winter (JH, DJS); imm., UCCA, 29 Dec-27 Feb (KM, DK, FB, VK); Chau, 17 Jan (RC).

American Kestrel
MC: 20, Kankakee Co, 3 Jan (DFS); 17, Sangamon Co, 16 Jan (HDB); 17, St. Clair Co, 12 Feb (KM); 14, QC CBC, 19 Dec (KJM). **Others**: 3, Chau, 31 Dec (R&SBj); 8, St. Clair Co, 5 Jan (TUM); 8, De Kalb and La Salle Cos, 15 Jan (DJS); 6, Lee Co, 12 Feb (EW).

Merlin
HL, 10 Dec (PJ); male, Millington (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); Lee Co, 2 Jan & 6 Feb (CA); Mendota (La Salle Co), 8 Jan (JH); Morgan Co, 22 Feb (KV).

Peregrine Falcon
2 (*anatum*), JP, all winter (PC); 2, Evanston (Cook Co), all winter (EW, JE); Wauk, 3 Dec (DJ); Chau, 9 Dec (R&SBj); Lake Co, 29 Jan (SH); ad., Pr.Rdg, 2 Feb (JW, EK, DO); 2, GrantP, 11 Feb (DFS).

Ring-necked Pheasant
MC: 61, La Salle L, 30 Jan (C&JMc); 53, Pecatonica, 22 Jan (DTW). **Others**: 15, Princeton-Camanche CBC, 17 Dec (RN, AM); male, Schaumburg (Cook Co), 4 Jan (CF); 5, Sangamon Co, 16 Jan (HDB); 26, De Kalb Co, 6 Feb (DJS).

Greater Prairie-Chicken
MC: **86**, Pr.Rdg, 21 Dec (JW, m.ob.); **67**, Pr.Rdg, 17 Dec (JW).

Wild Turkey
MC: 133, Winnebago Co, 18 Dec (DTW); 75, Princeton-Camanche CBC, 17 Dec (KJM); 17, Bushnell CBC (McDonough, Fulton Cos), 18 Dec (LH); 14, Madison Co, 13 Feb (KM); 8, East Alton (Madison Co), 21 Feb (DK). **Others**: 6, Madison Co, 8 Jan (FH); 13, Seneca (La Salle Co), 9 Jan (C&JMc); 4, Sang.L, 8 Feb (HDB); 22, Lee Co, 12 Feb (CA).

Northern Bobwhite
MC: 13, Sangamon Co, 1 Jan (HDB); 12, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 11, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM). **Others**: 4, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 8, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (KJM); 6, Mason Co, 28 Feb (R&SBj).

American Coot
MC: 950, HL, 25 Feb (KM); 307, Chau, 17 Dec (R&SBj); 300, HL, 25 Jan (FH); 300, Carl.L, 26 Feb (DK); 185, JP, 15 Dec (PC); 159, L Spfld, 25 Dec (HDB); 150, L Petersburg (Menard Co), 13 Jan (VK); 64, La Salle L, 9 Jan (C&JMc). **Others**: 41, JP, 15 Jan (PC); 25, Lake Co, 16 Jan (DJ).

Sandhill Crane
MC: **410+**, Du Page Co CBC (Du Page Co), 18 Dec (EW, m.ob.); **200+**, Chi, 20 Dec (KW); 12, Pulaski Co, 19 Feb (KM, FB). **Others**: 19, Wauk, 20 Dec (DJ); 2, Rend L, 5 Feb (FB); 6, Boone Co, 29 Feb (AEB).

Killdeer
MC: **153**, Clin.L, 17 Dec (RC, GL); **110**, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (KM, DWs); **72**, L Spfld, 10 Dec (HDB); 6, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (EA, DW). **Others**: 19, Little Swan L (Warren Co), 14 Dec (LH); 5, QC CBC, 19 Dec (KJM); Wauk, 30 Dec (CF); 4, Depue (Bureau Co), 31 Dec (C&JMc); 7, HL, 9 Jan (FH); 5, L Spfld, 13 Jan (HDB); 13, Chau, 25 Feb (R&SBj); 5, JP, 26 Feb (PC). Wintered in relatively good numbers throughout the state.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS
6, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (*KM, RZ).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS
Two very early spring migrants: Clin.L, 27 Feb (RC); Rochester SP, 29 Feb (HDB).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER
Mark Twain NWR (Calhoun Co), 22 Jan (*HW); L Spfld, 25 Jan-15 Feb (*HDB).

LEAST SANDPIPER
MC: **30**, HL, 5 Dec (FH); **22**, Calhoun Co, 18 Dec (*WR). **Others**: 2, Fishhk, 5 Dec (RC); 6, Alexander Co CBC, 28 Dec (DK).

DUNLIN
L Spfld, through 5 Dec (HDB); Massac Co, 8 Dec (FB); Montrose, 9 Jan (AFS).

Common Snipe
MC: **21**, Chau, 9 Dec (R&SBj); **17**, HL, 9 Feb (FH); 8, Depue (Bureau Co), 31 Dec (C&JMc); 7, Carl.L CBC, 12 Jan (TUM); 5, Sangamon Co, 3 & 5 Feb (HDB); 3, Waterfall Glen FP (Du Page Co), 22 Jan (GW). **Others**: Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (EA, DW); 2, McDonough Co, 17 Dec (LH); 3, Clin.L, 17 Dec (RC, GL); 4, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 3, Mermet L, 27 Feb (FB).

American Woodcock
All reports apply to spring migrants. **MC**: 27, Urbana, 24 Feb (RC); 10, Carl.L, 20 Feb (DK); 5, Sang.L, 28 Feb (HDB); 3-5, Massac Co, 22-28 Feb (FB). **Others**: Pulaski Co, 11 Feb (FB); Adams Co, 20 Feb (KV); JP, 25 Feb (KC, PC).

FRANKLIN'S GULL
Two reports: ad., Mississippi R (Hancock Co), 8 Jan (HDB, BD, DK, MD); ad., Madison Co, 17 Jan (JZ, TB).

LITTLE GULL
One report: ad., **LShel.**, 5 Dec (RC).

Bonaparte's Gull
MC: **400**, La Salle L, 12 Dec (C&JMc); **400**, Newton L (Jasper Co), 17 Dec (JW); **400**, Carl.L, 26 Feb (DK); **300**, Sangamon Co, 16 Dec (HDB); 197, HL, 15 Dec (JZ); 185, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, RZ); 134, SandRdg, 9 Dec (R&SBj). **Others**: 2, Chi, 4 Dec (JL); 50, LShel., 5 Dec (RC); 2, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 10, CrabOr, 19 Feb (KM, FB).

Ring-billed Gull
MC: **10,000**, Pekin, 30 Jan (MLR); 8816, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 8600, HL, 19 Jan (KM); 8000, Carl.L, 9 Feb (KM); **3864**, **QC CBC**, 19 Dec (KJM); 3500, Sangamon Co, 17 Dec (HDB); **1500**, **Starved Rock L&D** (La Salle Co), 5 Feb (C&JMc); 1010, Chau, 17 Dec (R&SBj); 650, Wilmette (Cook Co), 26 Dec (EW, MS, JE). **Others**: 395, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 320, Putnam and Bureau Cos, 31 Dec (DJS, JH); 318+, Evgn L, 23 Feb (MLR).

Herring Gull
MC: **10,000**, Pekin, 30 Jan (MLR); 5,000, Starved Rock L&D (La Salle Co), 5 Feb (C&JMc); 3650, LCal, 8 Feb (DFS); 300, Carl.L, 9 Jan (DK). **Others**: 471, QC CBC, 19 Dec (KJM); 1500, LCal, 24 Dec (WM); 400, South Elgin (Kane Co), 8 Jan (DJS); 18, McLean Co, 16 Jan (MLR); 125, L Spfld, 22 Jan (HDB); 250, Madison Co, 27 Jan (KM). **Hybrid Herring x Glaucous Gull**: 1st, Pekin, 30 Jan (MLR).

Thayer's Gull
MC: **15+** (10+ ad., 3 1st, 2 2nd), Pekin, 30 Jan (MLR); **5+** (4+ ad., 1 2nd), Chi, 22 Jan (MLR, JR); **5** (2 ad., 2 1st, 1 2nd), Starved Rock L&D (La Salle Co), 5-6 Feb (KM, C&JMc). **Others**: QC CBC, 19 Dec (KJM); 2 (1 ad., 1 3rd), LCal, 31 Dec (WM); 1st, Rockford, 16 Jan (DTW); 1st, Sangamon Co, 6 Jan (HDB); 1st, HL, 25 Jan (FH); 1st, Rend L, 29 Jan (DK, KM, FB); Ill. R (Grundy Co), 1 Feb (DFS); 3 (2 ad., 1 1st), GrantP, 7 Feb (DFS); Smithland L&D (Pope Co), 13 Feb (FB). Widespread, especially in the northern 2/3 of the state.

Iceland Gull
MC: **4** (3 ad., 1 2nd "Kumlien's"), Pekin, 30 Jan (MLR); 2 (ad., 1st), Starved Rock L&D (La Salle Co), 9 Jan-20 Feb (KM, DJS, C&JMc,

m.ob.). **Others**: ad., IBSP, 8 Jan (AFS); 2nd, Madison Co, 26 Jan (JZ); 2nd, LCal, 12 Feb (WM, GW); 1st, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 12 Feb (DK, VK, MD); ad., Chi, 20 Feb (JL).

Lesser Black-backed Gull
MC: **5** (3 ad., 2 2nd), Starved Rock L&D (La Salle Co), 30 Jan (C&JMc); **4** (2 ad., 2 1st), HL, 17 Jan (FH); **4** (3 ad., 1 2nd), Pekin, 30 Jan (MLR). **Others**: ad., Sangamon Co, 13 Dec-11 Feb (HDB); ad., Rend L, 18 Dec (FB); 2nd, Wauk, 24 Dec (AFS); 1st, Geneva (Kane Co), 26 Dec (DFS); ad., LCal, 2 Jan (WM); 2nd, Carl.L, 9-15 Jan (KM, DK); ad., Montrose, 14-16 Jan (KW, GW, AA, m.ob.); ad., Carl.L, 23 Jan (KM, RM, VL).

Glaucous Gull
MC: 2 (1 ad., 1 1st), LCal, 31 Dec (WM); 2 (ad.), Starved Rock L&D (La Salle Co), 20 Feb (C&JMc); 2 (1 ad., 1 1st), Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 12 Feb (DK, VK, MD, AFS). **Others**: 1st, Montrose, 6 Dec (GW); ad., Geneva (Kane Co), 18 Dec (JM); 1st, Carl.L, 14 Jan (KM, FB); ad., LShel., 16 Jan (RC); 2nd, Chau, 17 Jan (RC); 2nd, Starved Rock L&D (La Salle Co), 22 Jan (DJS); 1st, HL, 25 Jan (FH); 1st, Rend L, 29 Jan (DK, FB); 1st, GrantP, 15 Feb (DFS). Widespread, especially across the northern 1/3 of Illinois.

Great Black-backed Gull
MC: **5** (1 ad., 3 1st, 1 2nd), LCal, 14-15 Jan (DFS, KW); 3 (1 ad., 2 others), Rainbow Beach (Cook Co), 15 Jan (CA); 2 (1st), Smithland L&D (Pope Co), 6 Feb (FB). **Others**: ad., Kane Co, 22 Dec (AFS); 1st, HL, 14 Jan (FB, JSo); ad., Wauk, 19 Jan (CF); 1st, Carl.L, 22-23 Jan (DK, KM, RM).

Black-legged Kittiwake
Three reports: Gillson P (Cook Co), 5 Dec (AFS); 1st, **Carl.L**, 22-30 Jan (DK, KM, RM, VL, FB); 1st, **Clin.L**, 20 Feb (*RC).

CASPIAN TERN
Newton L (Jasper Co), 21 Dec (*JW, JOS et al.).

Rock Dove
MC: 1577, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 500, Cook Co, 30 Dec (DFS). **Others**: 294, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 91, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE
Undocumented reports: **MC**: 10, Pulaski Co, 10 Dec (FB); 8, Newton (Jasper Co), 11 Jan (JW, EK, DO). **Others**: 4, Carl.L, 9 Feb (KM); Witt (Montgomery Co), 23 Jan (KM). **Note**: Few birders are observing the IORC's request for documentation of this species, in part because documentations have been previously submitted from the current sites of occurrence. The data reported here should be regarded as uncorroborated, but potentially verifiable by future in-depth studies of the growing Collared-/Turtle-Dove colonies in Illinois.

Mourning Dove
MC: 337, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 300, Heyworth (McLean Co), 10 Dec (MLR); 287, Sangamon Co, 19 Dec (HDB); 240, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 75, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 75, Palatine (Cook Co), 19 Jan (CF); 73, Vermilion Co, 4 Feb (JOS). **Others**: 56, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM); 42, Du Page Co, 19 Jan (DFS); 60, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 22 Jan (KM); 29, Bushnell (McDonough Co), 2 Feb (LH).

Monk Parakeet
MC: 43, JP, 12 Jan (PC); 30, Burnham (Cook Co), 27 Feb (WM). **Others**: 14, LCal, 8 Feb (DFS); 2, Chi, 13 Feb (DJ).

BARN OWL
Union Co, 23 Jan (*FB, videotaped). See also Records Pending IORC Review.

Eastern Screech-Owl
MC: 8, Cap Sauers FP (Cook Co), 19 Dec (KW); 8, Sangamon Co, 19 Dec (HDB); 6, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (KJM); 6, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM); 5, Ewing (Franklin Co), 18 Dec (LS). **Others**: 4, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 4, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); Vermilion Co, 25 Dec (JOS); 4, Lake Forest (Lake Co), 26 Dec (DJ); 2, Kendall Co, 1 Jan (DFS); 4, Wayne Fitzgerald SP (Franklin Co), 8 Jan (LS).

Great Horned Owl
MC: 12, Rock Falls CBC, 2 Jan (KJM, RLC); 11, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 7, Sangamon Co, 1 Jan (HDB); 6, Franklin Co, 1 Jan (LS). **Others**: 4, Vermilion Co, all winter (JOS); 4, Princeton-Camanche CBC, 17 Dec (KJM); 5, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM); Paul Douglas FP, 16 Jan (KW); Chi (Humboldt P), 10 Feb (AA).

Snowy Owl
Chi (Meigs Field), 12 Dec-11 Feb (DFS, JL, KW, m.ob.); **Urbana**, 28 Dec (RC); Zion Nuclear Plant (Lake Co), 30 Dec (SH); JP (same as Meigs Field bird?), 25 Jan (KC, PC); **Pike Co**, 28 Jan (KV).

Barred Owl
MC: 6, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 6, Carl.L, 5 Feb (DK); 4, Niabi Zoo, all winter (KJM). **Others**: 3, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (TM); 3, Vermilion Co, 14 Feb (JOS); 2, Sangamon Co, 28 Feb (HDB).

Long-eared Owl
MC: 7, Boone Co, 25 Feb (AEB); 2-4, Carl.L, 5 Jan-29 Feb (DK); 2, St. Charles (Kane Co), 15 Jan (JM). **Others**: Cook Co, 8 Jan (KW); MidFk FWA, 9 Jan (RC); Lake Co, 25 Jan (DJ); Rend L, 5 Feb (FB); JP, 22 Feb (SC).

Short-eared Owl
MC: **30-50**, Pr.Rdg, all winter (JW); **8-20**, Carl.L, 11 Dec-26 Feb (DK); 5, Chatham (Sangamon Co), 24 Jan (HDB); 4, Urbana, 31 Dec (RC). **Others**: Knox Co, 1 Jan (PhR, PR); Fulton Co, 7 Jan (LH); 3, St. Clair Co, 19 Jan (TUM); 2, Pulaski Co, 23 Jan (FB); 4, Jackson Co, 29 Jan (RM); 3, Washington Co, 29 Jan (DK, KM, FB); 2, Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co), 31 Jan (CF); 2, Morgan Co, 5 Feb (VK).

Northern Saw-whet Owl
Johnson Co, 10 Dec (FB); Hamilton Co, 11 Dec & 12 Feb (LS); Urbana, 11 Dec-19 Feb (RC, m.ob.); 2, MArb, 19 Dec & 8 Jan (TK, m.ob.); MidFk FWA, 31 Dec-1 Jan (SB, RC); 2-3, Carl.L, 1 Jan-29 Feb (DK, KM); Sang.L, 11 Jan (HDB); Eldon Hazlet SP (Clinton Co), 11 Jan (KV).

Belted Kingfisher
MC: 6, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 4, Sangamon Co, 4 Dec (HDB); 3, Rend L, 29 Jan (KM, DK, FB). **Others**: female, JP, 18 Dec (PC); Carl.L, 1 & 23 Jan (DK); 2, Fox R (Kendall Co), 1 Jan-20 Feb (DFS); 2, Rock Falls CBC, 2 Jan (CK, m.ob.); South Elgin (Kane Co), 8 Jan (DJS); MidFk FWA, 11 Feb (JOS); 2, Chau, 17 Feb (R&SBj).

Red-headed Woodpecker
MC: 29, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 19, Danville (Vermilion Co), 1 Jan (RC, SB); 14, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD); 7, Allerton P (Piatt Co), 9 Feb (JOS); 6, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB). **Others**: 2, Fox R (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 4, Sangamon Co, 13 Jan (HDB); Winnebago Co, 9-29 Feb (DTW).

Red-bellied Woodpecker
MC: 67, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 25, Sangamon Co, 19 Dec (HDB). **Others**: 22, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 22, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (KJM); 16, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD); 16, Union Co CBC (Union Co), 29 Dec (KM, DK); 16, Putnam and Bureau Cos, 31 Dec (DJS, JH); 21, Fox R (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
MC: 4, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD); 3, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 3, Sangamon Co, 21-22 Dec, 2 Jan (HDB). **Others**: Geneva (Kane Co), 18 Dec (JM); 2, Urbana, 18 Dec (RC); Lake Co, 1 Jan (DJ); imm., Carl.L, 9 Jan (DK).

Downy Woodpecker
MC: 72, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 27, Fox R (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 22, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD); 18, Putnam and Bureau Cos, 31 Dec (DJS, JH); 16, Sangamon Co, 19 Dec (HDB).

Hairy Woodpecker
MC: 20, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 10, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 9, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (KM, DWs); 7, Kendall Co, 19 Dec (DFS). **Others**: 2, Boone Co, all winter (AEB); female, JP, all winter (PC); 5, Sangamon Co, 4 Dec (HDB); 3, Putnam and Bureau Cos, 31 Dec (DJS, JH).

Northern Flicker
MC: 16, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD); 11, Sangamon Co, 19 Dec (HDB); 11, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM). **Others**: Chi, all winter (PB); 6, Putnam and Bureau Cos, 31 Dec (DJS, JH); 4, Fox R (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); Schiller P (Cook Co), 12 Feb (AA).

Pileated Woodpecker
MC: 7, Union Co CBC (Union Co), 29 Dec (KM, DK); 4, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 4, Niabi Zoo, 13 Feb (KJM); 3, Sangamon Co, 10 Jan (HDB). **Others**: 2, Vermilion Co, all winter (JOS); 2, Chau, 2 Dec & 10 Feb (R&SBj); 2, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 2, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (AB); SRock SP, 15 Jan (DJS).

Eastern Phoebe
MC: 2, Mermet L, 22 Jan (FB); 2, Union Co, 29 Jan (KM, DK, FB). **Others**: I&M Canal (Grundy Co), 19 Dec (DJS); Alexander Co, 28 Dec (DK, KM); Carl.L, 5 Jan (MB).

Loggerhead Shrike
MC: **18**, Pr.Rdg, 21 Dec (JW, m.ob.); **7**, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 7, Massac Co, 27 Feb (FB). **Others**: 2, Union Co, all winter (KM); 2, Pulaski Co, all winter (KM); QC CBC, 19 Dec (*TM); Adams Co, 19 Dec (*KV); Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (*BB); 2, Johnson Co, 24 Dec (FB); Spfld, 17 Jan (HDB).

Northern Shrike
Record Invasion Year. MC: 4 (3 ad., 1 imm.), Bushnell CBC (McDonough, Fulton Cos), 18 Dec (LH); 4, Winnebago Co, 22 Jan (DTW); 2, Sangamon Co, 8 Dec (HDB). **Others**: Clin.L, 10 Dec (MLR); Seymour (Champaign Co), 12 Dec (RC); Princeton-Camanche CBC, 17 Dec (KJM); MArb CBC, 19 Dec (GW); Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM); LeRoy (McLean Co), 27 Dec & 17 Jan (RC); Gilman (Iroquois Co), 30 Dec (DFS); SRock SP, 1 Jan (C&JMc); Montrose, 15 Jan (CA); Lee Co, 29 Jan (DFS); Ascension Cemetery (Lake Co), 5 Feb (KM). Abundant and widespread throughout the northern half of Illinois. See separate article in this issue, which lists 105 reports from the state. The reports in this section reflect only those sent to the Field Notes compiler.

Blue Jay
MC: 50, Sangamon Co, 19 Dec (HDB); 46, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 38, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 36, Union Co CBC (Union Co), 29 Dec (KM, DK); 33, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 27, Boone Co, 2 Feb (AEB). **Other**: Chi, 8 Jan (AA).

American Crow
MC: 2350, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 2005, Evanston (Cook Co), 26 Dec (EW, JE); 355, LCal, 2 Jan (WM); 320, Ogle Co, 29 Jan (DFS); 300, St. Clair Co, 27 Jan (KM); 284, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 250, Spfld, 23 Jan (HDB); 125, McDonough Co, 14 Jan (LH).

Fish Crow
Union Co, 19 Feb (KM, FB); 2, Ft. Massac SP (Massac Co), 28 Feb (FB).

Horned Lark
MC: **1050**, Kendall Co, 20 Feb (DFS); 805, Sangamon Co, 30 Jan (HDB); 600, Piatt Co, 29 Jan (VK); 500+, Kane Co, 22 Jan (JM); 400, Sang.L, 2 Feb (KM); 350+, Winnebago Co, 20 Jan (DTW); 250, Montgomery Co, 23 Jan (KM); 250, De Kalb Co, 3 Feb (DJS); 232+, Carbondale (Jackson Co), 29 Feb (RM); 197, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 184, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 150, Vermilion Co, 23 Jan (JOS); 102, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM). **Others**: 56, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (KJM); 30, Cook Co, 30 Jan (KW); 25, HL, 30 Jan (FH). Abundant and widespread throughout the northern 2/3 of the state.

Carolina Chickadee
MC: 31, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (KM, DWs). **Others**: 8, Vermilion Co, 6 Dec (JOS).

Black-capped Chickadee
MC: 125, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 105, Fox R (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 83, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (KJM); 52, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 30, Sangamon Co, 1 Jan (HDB). **Others**: 8, JP, 12 Jan (PC); 6, SandRdg, 6 Feb (KM). **Albinistic**: 1 (all white), Eside SP (Sangamon Co), 26 Dec (HDB).

Horned Lark. Lake Sangchris State Park, Sangamon County. 12 March 2000. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Tufted Titmouse
MC: 36, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (KJM); 26, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 20, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM); 19, Sangamon Co, 10 Dec (HDB); 18, Fox R (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 13, Union Co CBC (Union Co), 29 Dec (KM, DK); 12, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM).

Red-breasted Nuthatch
MC: 26, IBSP, 4 Dec (JM); 15, SandRdg, 6 Feb (KM); 12, Union Co CBC (Union Co), 29 Dec (KM, DK); 8, Sangamon Co, 5 Dec (HDB). **Others**: 4, Boone Co, all winter (AEB); 2, Palatine (Cook Co), all winter (CF); 2, Massac Co, 1 Dec-8 Jan (FB); 3, Princeton-Camanche CBC, 17 Dec (KJM); 3, Lake Forest (Lake Co), 26 Dec (DJ); 4, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM); Bushnell (McDonough Co), 13 Jan (LH); Vermilion Co, 25 Jan-5 Feb (JOS); 4, Johnson Sauk Trail SP (Henry Co), 21 Feb (DJS); 3, L Glendale (Pope Co), 27 Feb (FB). Occurred in relatively large numbers throughout the winter.

White-breasted Nuthatch
MC: 55, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 35, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM); 29, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 27, Fox R (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 14, La Salle Co, 1 Jan (DJS); 12, Sangamon Co, 10 Jan (HDB); 7, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (KM, DWs).

Brown Creeper
MC: 21, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 11, Schiller P (Cook Co), 20 Feb (AA); 11, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 10, Fox R (Kendall Co), 12 Dec (DFS); 8, Sangamon Co, 4 Dec (HDB); 7, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (KJM). **Others**: 2, JP, all winter (PC); 5, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD); 2, Boone Co, 1 Jan (AEB); 6, Vermilion Co, 11 Dec (JOS).

Carolina Wren
MC: 18, Danville (Vermilion Co), 1 Jan (RC, SB); 16, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD); 12, Sangamon Co, 19 Dec (HDB); 4, Fox R (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 4, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB). **Others**

(north/north-central): Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 2, Ottawa (La Salle Co), 26 Dec (C&JMc); Rock Falls CBC, 2 Jan (CK, m.ob.); 2, Winnebago Co, 11 Feb (DTW).

Winter Wren
MC: 7, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD); 4, Rockford, 18 Dec (DTW); 3, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB). **Others**: MArb, 4 Dec (DFS); Princeton-Camanche CBC, 17 Dec (KJM); 2, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); Oswego (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 2, Union Co, 29 Jan (DK, KM, FB); Vermilion Co, 2 Feb (JOS); Carl.L, 20 Feb (DK).

SEDGE WREN
Carl.L, 19 Dec (DK).

Golden-crowned Kinglet
MC: 23, Union Co CBC (Union Co), 29 Dec (KM, DK); 8, Starved Rock L&D (La Salle Co), 16 Jan (C&JMc); 6, Sangamon Co, 6 Dec (HDB). **Others**: 4, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 4, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (KJM); 5, Lenzburg (St. Clair Co), 1 Jan (TUM); 2, Oswego (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
3, Sangamon Co, 14 Dec (HDB); 4, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD); 3, Mermet L, 31 Dec (FB); 2, Rend L, 29 Jan (DK, KM, FB).

Frosty, the Northern Mockingbird at North Avenue Beach, Cook County. 15 January 2000. Photo by Eric Walters.

Eastern Bluebird
MC: 21, Union Co CBC (Union Co), 29 Dec (KM, DK); 17, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 15, Sangamon Co, 7 Feb (HDB); 15, Jersey Co, 14 Feb (KM); 9, MidFk FWA, 9 Jan (RC); 8, Lenzburg (St. Clair Co), 10 Jan (TUM). **Others**: 5, McDonough Co, 6 Dec (LH); 3, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 2, Rockford, 25 Feb (DTW).

Hermit Thrush
MC: 2, MArb, 4 Dec (KM); 2, Union Co, 29 Jan (KM, DK, FB); 2, Urbana, 6 Feb (RC, m.ob.). **Others**: Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); Sangamon Co, through 25 Jan (HDB); Shawnee National Forest, 28 Dec (DK); Lake Co, 1 Jan (DJ); Rockford, 22 Jan (DTW); Westchester (Cook Co), 6 Feb (DFS).

American Robin
MC: **4338**, Deerfield (Lake Co), 26 Dec (AA, RH, EO); 214, Union Co CBC (Union Co), 29 Dec (KM, DK); 200+, Niabi Zoo, 28 Feb (KJM); 187, JP, 26 Feb (PC); 120, Urbana, 18 Dec (RC, GL); 114, Lenzburg (St. Clair Co), 16 Jan (TUM); 31, Sangamon Co, 5 & 30 Jan (HDB). **Others**: 85, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 60, Lake Co, 1 Jan (DJ); 65, HL, 27 Jan (KM).

Northern Mockingbird
MC: 4, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 3, Pulaski Co, 29 Jan (KM, FB, DK); 3, Sangamon Co, 30 Jan (HDB). **Others**: Spring Valley Nature Center, Schaumburg (Cook Co), 1 Dec-14 Feb (RCo, CF); Chi (North Ave. Beach)., 9 Dec-29 Feb (DFS, CW, *JL, photo, m.ob.); New Philadelphia (McDonough Co), 17 Dec (LH); MView, 29 Dec (JR, MLR); Adams Co, 17 Jan (KV). Wintered throughout the state in greater than usual numbers.

Brown Thrasher
Rend L, 18 Dec (DK); Hazel Dell (Sangamon Co), 21 Dec (HDB); 2, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD); Urbana, 16 Jan (RC); Sang.L, 31 Jan (HDB).

European Starling
MC: **11,000+**, Deerfield (Cook Co), 18 Dec (EW); **10,000+**, Urbana, 11 Dec (RC); 5346, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 2615, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 2341, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (BB); 1800, LCal, 24 Dec (WM); 1028, JP, 26 Feb (PC); 1,000, Vermilion Co, all winter (JOS).

American Pipit
MC: 23, Fishhk, 5 Dec (RC); 5, Rend L, 29 Jan (KM, DK, FB); 4, Sang.L, 27 Jan (HDB). **Others**: 2, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (*KM, DWs); 2, Union Co CBC (Union Co), 29 Dec (*KM); Cook Co, 23 Jan (*AFS, *SH).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING:
Rochester (Sangamon Co), 22-26 Jan.(DB, PW, SB, WS, DO*photo, m.ob.), also seen again 21-24 Feb. (DO, PW). See seasonal highlights. Pending IORC review, but photo is diagnostic.

Cedar Waxwing
MC: 400+, Rochester (Sangamon Co), 24 Feb (VK); 200, Homer L (Champaign Co), 9 Jan (RC); 151, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 122, Rochester (Sangamon Co), 30 Jan (HDB); 75, Rock Falls CBC, 2 Jan (JB); 60, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM). **Others**: 20, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 11 Dec (KM); 27, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 24, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM); 18, JP, 14 Jan (KC); 38, Lake Co, 16 Jan (DJ); 21, Boone Co, 18-20 Jan (AEB); 45, Mason Co, 28 Feb (R&SBj).

NASHVILLE WARBLER
Grant P, 9 Dec (*DFS).

Yellow-rumped Warbler
MC: 18, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD); 15, UCCA, 19 Feb (KM, FB); 14, Des Plaines R (Lake Co), 1 Jan (CF); 5, Sangamon Co, 19 Dec (HDB). **Others**: 2-4, Urbana, 12 Dec-6 Feb (RC); 3, Rockton (Winnebago Co), 18 Dec (DTW); 2, Cook Co, 26 Dec (RH, AA); 2, MArb, 16 Jan (DTW); 3, HL, 16 Jan (FH).

AMERICAN REDSTART
Chi, 6 Dec (AW).

Spotted Towhee
Spfld, 23 Jan (m.ob., present since fall); east of Spfld, 11 Feb (HDB).

Eastern Towhee
MC: **11**, Rend L, 18 Dec (DK); 5, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD); 3, Sang.L, 24 Dec-winter (HDB); 3, Urbana, 2 Jan (RC). **Others** (north): MArb, 4 Dec (DFS); Durand (Winnebago Co), 18 Dec (DTW).

American Tree Sparrow
MC: 440, Ogle Co, 29 Jan (DFS); 427, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM); 340, La Salle L, 9 Jan (C&JMc); 298, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 160, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (SF); 140, Sangamon Co, 30 Jan (HDB); 100+, MView, 4 Dec (MLR, JR); 100, Bardolph (McDonough Co), 16 Dec (LH); 86, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (KM, DWs); 55, Lake Co, 1 Jan (DJ).

CHIPPING SPARROW
Orland P (**Cook Co**), all Feb (*WS, photo).

Field Sparrow
MC: 22, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 20, Mermet L, 29 Jan (KM, DK, FB); 5, Sangamon Co, 21 & 23 Jan (HDB); 4, Rockton (Winnebago Co), 18 Dec (DTW); 4, Snicarte (Mason Co), 13 Jan (VK). **Others**: IBSP, 4 Dec (SH, AFS); 3, Fulton Co, 12 Dec (LH); Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 2, LCal (Eggers Woods), 14 Jan (DFS); Vermilion Co, 20 Feb (JOS). Possibly the most ever wintering in Illinois.

Savannah Sparrow
MC: 13, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 12, HL, 30 Jan (FH); 8, Sangamon Co, 30 Jan & 17 Feb (HDB, VK); 5, Urbana, 19 Dec (RC); 3, Oswego (Kendall Co), 20 Feb (DFS); 2, Winnebago Co, 18 Dec (DTW). **Others** (north/central): Fulton Co, 12 Dec (LH); La Salle L, 9 Jan (C&JMc).

Le Conte's Sparrow
MC: 7, Rend L, 18 Dec (DK); 5, Union Co, 19 Feb (KM, FB); 4, Pr.Rdg, 17 Dec (JW). **Others**: 3, Carl.L, all winter (DK); 2, **Lake Co**, 11 Dec & 6-8 Jan (DJ, JSt, AFS, SH). Relatively abundant, especially in the southern 1/3 of the state.

Fox Sparrow
MC: 15, Union Co, 29 Jan (KM, DK, FB); 12, Urbana, all winter (RC); 11, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 8, Snicarte (Mason Co), 13 Jan (VK); 7-8, Sangamon Co, 7 Dec-10 Jan (HDB); 7, I&M Canal (Grundy Co), 11 Dec (DJS); 3, McKee Marsh (Du Page Co), 18 Dec (RF). **Others**: Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM); LCal, 2 Jan (WM); 2, Pecatonica, 7 Jan-10 Feb (DTW); Chi, 8 Jan (AA, CN); Bushnell (McDonough Co), 28 Jan-4 Feb (LH); Ogle Co, 29 Jan (DFS); Boone Co, 30 Jan (AEB); Eldon Hazlet SP (Clinton Co), 21 Feb (KV). Abundant and widespread throughout the state, especially in the north.

Song Sparrow
MC: 100, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 52, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, RZ); 40+, Urbana, 26 Feb (RC); 33, Sangamon Co, 4 Dec (HDB); 33, Bureau and Putnam Cos, 31 Dec (DJS, JH); 33, I&M Canal (Grundy Co), 1 Feb (DFS); 28, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (KJM); 27, JP, 29 Feb (PC). The northern 2/3 of Illinois had good wintering numbers.

Lincoln's Sparrow
Three singles, Sangamon Co, 4-5 Dec & 21 Jan (HDB); 2, QC CBC, 19 Dec (*BLB, CB); Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (*KJM); 2, Jackson Co, 1 Jan (RM).

Swamp Sparrow
MC: 27, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, RZ); 21, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 17, Sangamon Co, 1 Jan (HDB); 12, Putnam Co, 31 Dec (DJS, JH); 11, Lake Co, 1 Jan (DJ); 10, Princeton-Camanche CBC, 17 Dec (RN, AM). **Others**: 6, McDonough Co, 14 Dec (LH); 2, Millington (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); Palatine (Cook Co), 22 Jan (AA, m.ob.).

White-throated Sparrow
MC: 85, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM, RZ); 19, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 15, Sangamon Co, 25 Jan (HDB); 13, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM). **Others** (north): 5, GrantP, all winter (DFS); 6, La Salle Co, 1 Jan (DJS); 5, Wilmington (Will Co), 1 Jan (CA); Chi (Humboldt P), 10 Jan (AA); Chi (Lincoln P), 17 Jan (AA).

Harris's Sparrow
Imm., Sang.L, all winter (HDB); 2 (ad., imm.), Calhoun Co, 18 Dec & 21 Feb (*MR, KM); Boone Co, 5 Jan-29 Feb (*AEB); imm., Bushnell (McDonough Co), 28 Jan-1 Feb (LH).

White-crowned Sparrow
MC: 105, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (KM, DWs); 50+, Meredosia NWR (Cass Co), 6 Jan (VK); 23, Putnam Co, 31 Dec (C&JMc); 15, Sang.L and Rochester SP, 17 & 24 Dec (HDB). **Others** (north/central): 2, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 3, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (SF); 5, Danville (Vermilion Co), 31 Dec (RC); 5, Wilmington (Will Co), 1 Jan (CA); 4, LCal, 2 Jan (WM). "**Gambel's**" race: Union Co, 29 Dec (DK, KM). Widespread throughout the state.

Dark-eyed Junco
MC: 1085, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 278, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 265, Ogle Co, 29 Jan (DFS); 236, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (KJM); 203, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (AB); 103, Sangamon Co, 18 Jan (HDB); 100+, Cook Co, 15 Jan (KW); 32, HL CBC, 28 Dec (KM, MD). "**Oregon**" **Junco**: 4, La Salle L, 9 Jan (C&JMc); 2, Ogle Co, 29 Jan (DFS); singles on seven dates, Sangamon Co, 5 Dec-5 Feb (HDB). **Pink-sided Junco**: Sangamon Co, 9 Dec, 5 Jan, 5 Feb (HDB).

Lapland Longspur
MC: **1500**, Carl.L, 19 Jan (KM); 300, HL, 30 Jan (FH); 250, Sangamon Co, 7 Jan (HDB); 250, Winnebago Co, 18 Feb (DTW); 150, Vermilion Co, 13 Feb (JOS); 125, McDonough Co, 16 Dec (LH); 120, Kane Co, 19 Jan (DFS); 100+, McLean Co, 19 Jan (JC); 80+, Lee Co, 12 Feb (EW); 70, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM). **Others**: 9, Rock Falls CBC, 2 Jan (KJM); 8, Grundy Co, 29 Jan (EW); 7, Union Co, 29 Jan (FB). Relatively abundant and widespread across the northern 2/3 of Illinois.

SMITH'S LONGSPUR
One report: 3, Pr.Rdg, 21 Dec (*EK, DO). First accepted Illinois winter record.

Snow Bunting
MC: 300, Winnebago Co, 18 Feb (DTW); 200, Grundy Co, 2 Jan (DJS); 128+, Kane Co, 29 Jan (EW); 95, McLean Co, 29 Jan (C&JMc); 92, La Salle L, 6 Feb (C&JMc); 90, Ogle Co, 29 Jan (DFS); 40, Princeton-Camanche CBC, 17 Dec (RN, AM); 34, Lake Co, 2 Jan (AFS); 30, Fulton Co, 31 Jan (LH); 19, IBSP, 24 Dec (AFS); 4, Spfld, 30 Jan (HDB); 3, Carl.L, 27 Dec (DK). Fairly abundant and widespread across the northern 1/3 of Illinois.

Northern Cardinal
MC: 194, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 75, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (KM, DWs); 63, Fox R (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 62, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 61, Sangamon Co, 12 Dec (HDB); 44, Ottawa (La Salle Co), 13 Jan (C&JMc).

INDIGO BUNTING
Boone Co, 22 Dec-2 Jan (*AEB, photo).

Red-winged Blackbird
MC: **300,000**, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM); **15,000**, La Salle Co, 27 Feb (C&JMc); 7500+, Niabi Zoo, 28 Feb (KJM); 2100, Sangamon Co, 15 Feb (HDB); 900, LCal, 2 Jan (WM); 315, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 200, Seneca (La Salle Co), 19 Dec (DJS); 57, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 67+, JP, 26 Feb (PC); 50+, Boone Co, 23 Feb (AEB).

Eastern Meadowlark
MC: **150-202**, Pr.Rdg, 17 & 21 Dec (JW, m.ob.); 50, Union Co, 19 Feb (KM, FB); 29, Urbana, 2 Jan (RC); 9, Spfld, 1 Feb (HDB); 6, De Kalb Co, 3 Feb (DJS); 5, Chi, 27 Feb (JL). **Others** (north/central): 2, McDonough Co, 6 Dec (LH); 3, Boone Co, 26 Feb (AEB). Fairly abundant in the southern 1/3 of the state.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD
One report: ad. male, Sang.L, 31 Jan & 4-5 Feb (HDB).

Rusty Blackbird
MC: 325, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM); 200, L Spfld, 2 & 24 Jan (HDB); 80, Carl.L, 2 Jan (DK). **Others**: 2, QC CBC, 19 Dec (KJM); 6, Vermilion Co, 24 Dec (JOS); 2, Chi (Wolf L), 14 Jan (DFS).

Brewer's Blackbird
MC: 55, Union Co, 19 Feb (KM, FB); 40+, Evgn L, 4 Dec (MLR, JR); 20-30, Carl.L, 15 Jan (HDB, DK, MD, BD); 20, Union Co, 29 Jan (KM, FB, DK); 14 (13 male, 1 female), Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory (Du Page Co), 29 Jan & 3 Feb (EW, DKa,

White-winged Crossbills. Highland Park feeder, Lake County. Five birds, both male and female, wintered at this backyard feeder. Date photo taken unknown. Photo by Dick Ettlinger.

GW). **Note**: Outside of southwestern Illinois, this species is little expected and often overreported in winter, and—lacking evaluable evidence—reports from the north and east should be viewed with due reservation.

Common Grackle
MC: **800,000**, Calhoun Co, 18 Dec (WR); **250,000**, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM); **10,000**, La Salle Co, 27 Feb (C&JMc); 5000+, Niabi Zoo, 28 Feb (KJM); 1500, Sangamon Co, 2 Jan (HDB); 842, Seneca (La Salle Co), 19 Dec (DJS); 275, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK). **Others**: Vermilion Co, 21 Jan (JOS); 73+, JP, 26 Feb (PC).

Brown-headed Cowbird
MC: **5000**, Rend L CBC, 18 Dec (KM); **1000**, Sangamon Co, 3 Jan,15 Feb (HDB); 967, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 692, Seneca (La Salle Co), 19 Dec (DJS); 200+, Hampton (Rock Island Co), all winter (KJM). **Others**: 58, Princeton-Camanche CBC, 17 Dec (RN, AM); 17, Deerfield (Lake Co), 26 Dec (AA, EL, JO); 75, Millbrook (Kendall Co), 1 Jan (DFS); 3 (2 female, 1 male), Bushnell (McDonough Co), 28 Jan (LH). Wintered in good numbers.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE
First state record. 1 at feeder, 15 Jan. - 3 Feb. Toulon (Stark Co). See separate article and photos for details on this species.

Purple Finch
MC: 38, Mason Co, 13 Dec (R&SBj); 27, Urbana, 18 Dec (AR); 18, Clinton (Iowa) CBC, 16 Dec (KJM); 17, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 15, Cook Co, 16 Jan (KW); 13, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM); 12, Athens (Menard Co), 17 Jan (VK); 4, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 2-5, Massac Co, 19 Dec-29 Feb (FB). **Others**: 7, Table Grove (Fulton Co), 15 Jan (KM); 5, Pecatonica, 15 Jan (DTW); Père Marquette SP (Jersey Co), 14 Feb (KM). Occurred in pretty good numbers this winter.

House Finch
MC: 169, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (KM, DWs); 124, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 42, Sangamon Co, 24 Jan (HDB); 39, Rock Falls CBC, 2 Jan (JB); 6, Lake Co, 1 Jan (DJ).

Red Crossbill
MC: 5, IBSP, 4 Dec (AFS, JM, SH); 4, Clin.L, 6 Feb (RC). **Others**: two singles (males) on four dates, Sangamon Co, 9 Dec-2 Jan & 24 Jan (HDB); 2, White Pines SP (Ogle Co), 29 Jan (DFS).

White-winged Crossbill
MC: 17, Normal (McLean Co), 18 Dec (MLR, m.ob.); 16, MArb, 18-23 Dec & 3 Jan (EW, MBC, JV, m.ob.); 15, Sangamon Co, 16 Dec (HDB). **Others**: 3, Lake Forest (Lake Co), 26 Dec (DJ, AS); 2, Urbana, 2 Jan (RC).

Common Redpoll
MC: 7, Skokie (Cook Co), 7-29 Feb (EW, m.ob.); 4, Downers Grove (Du Page Co), 17 Feb (GW). **Others**: 2, MView, 4 Dec (MLR, JR); 3, Rockford, 2 Jan (DTW); Fishhk, 16 Jan (RC). A minor influx this winter.

Pine Siskin
MC: 35, Lake Co, 2 Jan (JM); 32, Rockford, 23 Jan (DTW); 22, SRock SP, 1 Jan (C&JMc); 20, Sangamon Co, 19 Jan (HDB); 12, MArb, 31 Jan (AA). **Others**: 3-14, Palatine (Cook Co), 2 Dec-17 Jan (CF); 8, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM); 3, Joliet (Will Co), all Jan (CA); 3, Union Co, 29 Jan (KM, FB). A modest flight year.

American Goldfinch
MC: 83, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 83, JP, 11 Jan (PC); 64, Mason Co, 7 Feb (R&SBj); 60, Sangamon Co, 29 Jan (HDB); 26, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (KM, DWs).

Evening Grosbeak
One report: 4, Urbana, 18 Dec (AR).

House Sparrow
MC: 2402, QC CBC, 19 Dec (BLB, CB); 1347, Carl.L CBC, 21 Dec (DK); 429, Evanston (Cook Co), 26 Dec (EW, JE); 200+, Vermilion Co, all winter (JQS); 155, LCal, 14 Jan (DFS).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow
MC: 400, Snicarte (Mason Co), 13 Jan (VK); 100, Western Mercer Co CBC, 22 Dec (KJM, BB); 50, Fulton Co, 14 Jan (LH); 30, Sangamon Co, 5 Jan (HDB); 22, Musc. CBC, 26 Dec (KJM); 22, Anda. CBC, 27 Dec (KJM); 15, Banner Marsh (Peoria Co), 5 Feb (DJS). **Other**: Champaign (Champaign Co), 18 Dec (*RC, GL). Continuing to expand north.

EXOTICS/RELEASED SPECIES

Trumpeter Swan
Three reports: ad., Wolf L (Cook Co), 8 & 14 Jan (DFS, KW); Jackson Co, 12 Jan (KV); 3 (2 ad., 1 imm.), Massac Co, 6 Feb (FB).

Hooded Crow, Montrose Point, Cook County. 13 February 2000. Photo by Jim Landing. This European species is an escapee.

Carrion ("Hooded") Crow
Montrose, 13 Feb (KW ,*JL, photo).

European Goldfinch
Palatine (Cook Co), 27 Jan-18 Feb (CF).

CORRIGENDUM
Keith McMullen has pointed out that records from Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area should be attributed to Missouri, not Illinois. Such records assigned to Illinois in the winter 1998-99 seasonal report and elsewhere should accordingly be deleted.

California Gull. Calumet Park, Cook County. 23 January 2000. One of two birds present. Photo by Jiu Lauding. Under IORC review.

RECORDS PENDING IORC REVIEW:

PACIFIC LOON: LShel., 5 Dec; Clin.L, 8-19 Dec.

SWAINSON'S HAWK (extralimital): imm., Jersey Co, all Dec.

POMARINE JAEGER: imm. (dark morph), Rend L, 29 Jan & 5 Feb.

CALIFORNIA GULL: 1st, Carl.L, 9-23 Jan; 1-2 ad., Chi, 22-23 Jan.

WESTERN GULL: 2nd, Spfld, 22-23 Jan.

EURASIAN COLLARED- DOVE: Nokomis (Montgomery Co), 28 Feb.

BARN OWL: (extralimital): male, Moline (Rock Island Co), 2 Dec.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: imm. male, Urbana, 1-4 Dec.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: Rochester (Sangamon Co), 22-25 Jan.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE: ad. female, Sang.L, 2 Feb.

HOARY REDPOLL: male, Skokie (Cook Co), 7-29 Feb.

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Short-eared Owl. Sangamon County. 23 January 2000.
Photo by Peter Weber.